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NEW YORK CITY.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

VOL. 25.

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NO. 7

THE suggestion from Paris for the establishment at Brussels as a bibliographical center of a library museum similar to that now to be seen at the Paris Exposition seems an admirable one, and we trust that American librarians and libraries will co-operate toward such a result. Another excellent suggestion has been made that the A. L. A. exhibit at Paris should itself be made a travelling library and be sent from one great library to another in leading centers, so that the public in general and especially intending local benefactors might be fully informed of the progress made in library development and the facilities now afforded for the best library work. This exhibit so admirably represents the varied aspects of the library movement—in its smaller as well as in its largest manifestations—that it could hardly fail to be suggestive and interesting to many unfamiliar with the library development of the last decade. It is gratifying that the exhibit has already received one stamp of approval in the "grand prize" recently conferred upon it, and the Library Association has every reason to be satisfied with its share in the great Exposition at Paris.

At the Charleston meeting of the National Educational Association, which is in progress as this number of the LIBRARY JOURNAL goes to press, two sessions have been assigned to the Library Section of the association, for the consideration of the relations between public libraries and public schools. The interrelation of the school and the library will be presented by H. L. Elmendorf, of Buffalo, Miss Schreiber, of Madison, and other speakers, and the branch of library extension carried on through the libraries of the Seaboard Air Line will be described by Mrs. Heard, whose labors in this direction will be remembered by all in attendance at the Atlanta meeting of the Library Association. These annual meetings of the Library Section of the national teachers' association have never had a large attendance from the library side, but they have exerted a perceptible influence in the library field. They have

reached teachers rather than librarians, bringing each year a few more school people to an appreciation of the aid the library can give in school work and the helpful influence books may exert in the school-room. But the strongest factor in this appreciation has undoubtedly been the pamphlet on the "Relation of public libraries to public schools," prepared by the special committee of teachers and librarians, and published under the direction of the Library Section. If the Section had done no more than this, it would have more than justified its establishment; but it has done much more, in bringing teachers and librarians into closer contact, in giving opportunity for the expression of the teachers' point of view in library matters, and in widening the circle of its influence each year through these special sessions on school and library topics. Its work should have the hearty support of all librarians, and the co-operation of the A. L. A.—frequently expressed in words—should be actual co-operation in service—such co-operation as was indicated at the Montreal conference in the decision to unite with the Library Section in the distribution of the pamphlet on libraries and schools.

No one who has kept in touch with the reports of libraries during the current year can fail to be impressed with the growing importance of school use of books as a factor in circulation and general library activity. There has been a widespread effort within recent years to make the use of the public library a part of the routine of the school by placing special school collections in the school-room, by school travelling libraries, and by similar methods. Careful and intelligent use of books selected for such purposes should naturally have the result of decreasing the circulation of juvenile, and, indeed, of other fiction, and by this evident numerical decrease in volumes circulated seeming to decrease library efficiency—though exactly the opposite is the case. This is, perhaps, the key to the decrease in general home circulation of books, or the failure to show increase proportionate with previous

records, that is to be noted in recent library reports—reference use having, as a rule, shown steady growth, as should be the result of educational library development. One library reports "a steady contraction in the number of books issued, although the number of readers has increased"; another notes an increase in every class except fiction, though the total circulation shows the loss of a thousand volumes. In several reports it is specifically stated that the decrease in general circulation has been offset by the development of school use, which has kept the circulation up to the usual mark; and in others the school and reference use are the only items in which increase is noted. It is worth while for librarians to make special investigation and report on the question whether a decrease in circulation is not in most cases a positively wholesome sign, coming from the direct stimulus of reference work, and from less hasty and more useful home reading resulting from educational work in the schools. Certainly the school library work is a branch of the general field, full of opportunities and possibilities.

THE sabbatical year for college professors, in which to seek fresh fields and pastures new that they may reap harvests in the future as well as enjoy a vacation, has become an almost general feature in professional life, and an inducement for the best men to train themselves for college work. An interesting instance was the experience last year of Professor Root, librarian of Oberlin, who took this opportunity to study bibliography and the history of printing under Professor Dziatzko and Latin palaeography under Professor Meyer, and to make a technical inquiry also into the methods of the German book trade and the condition of the German and English libraries. Perhaps a sabbatical year for librarians, which this incident suggests, is too much to hope for, but it is becoming more and more recognized that librarians are a center of culture and influence and ought to have the widest professional advantages of rest and its opportunities. Every library of importance which did not give opportunity to its librarian to be present at the Montreal conference failed to reap for itself the full advantage of his or her best equipment, and it may be said that librarians get almost as much rest and refreshment out of their fortnight at

the A. L. A. conferences as some college professors do out of their sabbatical year. It is to be hoped that library vacations may be more generously extended, and may from time to time include opportunity for visits to other libraries and for a trip abroad with library interests in view. This can scarcely be afforded at the smaller libraries, but the remedy here is that the small libraries of to-day become the large libraries of to-morrow.

Communications.

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH.

IN sorting some manuscripts the other day I came across a list of books presented during the Civil War to the 6th Wisconsin Regiment, then in camp at Camp Randall on the outskirts of this city. As a contrast to the attractive libraries which went with some of our regiments in the last war, I send it to the JOURNAL. The list is as follows:

List of books presented by the citizens of Madison to the 6th Wisconsin Regiment.

Bible.	Memories of Genesaret.
Journey to Iceland.	The well in the valley.
Life of Judson.	The power of prayer.
Miscellany.	Life of Isaac T. Hopper.
Hall's Scripture history.	Words of Jesus.
Utility and glory of the divine purpose.	The still hour.
Way of life.	Treatise on astronomy.
Guide for young disciples.	Elements of chemistry.
Barnes's notes (Acts).	Grimes on phrenology.
Book of martyrs.	Flora Lindsey.
Memorials of Capt. Hedley	Olmsted's astronomy.
Vicars.	Faith and works.
Earnestness.	Jenkins on the atonement.

FLORENCE E. BAKER.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
Madison, Wis.

TYPEWRITERS IN LIBRARIES.

IN reference to the present discussion about typewriters for card work, permit me to relate my own experience: While librarian of Girard College I obtained a Hammond typewriter and used it in making a card catalog of the college library. The machine gave perfect satisfaction in every particular, and is still being used in the college for that purpose. The legibility and permanence of the work done has always been all that could be desired, while the "flat" handling of the cards (which is peculiar to the Hammond alone) leaves them in perfect condition for filing and reference.

Here we use the Hammond not only for the card catalog of the library but also for the card register of names. My experience is that I would not change the Hammond for any other typewriter on the market. In the handling of catalog cards I do not consider that the Hammond has either rival or competitor.

GEORGE P. RUFF.

GRAND LODGE F. & A. M. OF PENNA.,
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THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN ITS RELATIONS TO LITERATURE.*

BY LINDSAY SWIFT, *Boston Public Library.*

MY subject, "The public library in its relations to literature," is vague indeed, but purposely so. I am like the ambitious woman who wanted to die that she might have in the universe at large a field commensurate with her power of expression. Certainly literature is a large subject, but not too large to dismay us, though we must travel fast and a little unevenly in these few moments. Twenty years of association with this library and its treasure have given me a certain superficial acquaintance—it cannot well be other than superficial—with the concrete result of three thousand recorded years of humanity's attempts to voice itself through its aspirations, its experiences, and, not less important, through its failures. It will be desirable, however, to treat this subject not so much as a servant of any institution, as to look upon it with an open mind in this atmosphere of free institutions.

Whatever else a great library ought or ought not to garner to itself, it has one plain duty laid upon it to acquire works of literature. We all know Charles Lamb's essay on books which are not books, and, without too much definiteness, we have a clear notion of what we mean by a real "book." Books deal not primarily with art, science or government, but with the varied expressions of the human mind in the realms of imagination, with the art of life, with the yearning of our nature for something beyond the trivialities of each day. Literature has been one form of the immaterial side of our existence since those earliest days *post memoriam hominis*, when travelling bards sang their improvisations on stories traditional from a yet remoter past, or when round the winter's hearth old beldames summoned up rimes, sagas, and oft-repeated riddles to keep alive the small fires of intellect in an age inconceivably simple to our complicated perceptions. Yet even these rudimentary forms of literary expression had a vitality and mode far beyond the inarticulate babble of commonplace speech. If you doubt it, try to write a folk-tale as good as the worst in Grimm's collection. All this once made, and the infinitely richer modes of literary composition continue to make, for spiritual and intellectual enlightenment. Yes, I believe that a

library should see to it that these—the real books—come first. Other sorts of books are in a measure for the material benefit of some particular man or men, some creed, some political system, some commercial theory—they too should be here—every one of them if possible, but not to the neglect of the poetry, the drama, criticism, the essay, the novel—or of any fashion whatsoever of pure letters—*belles lettres*, as we used to call them—these are the primordial cells of the tissues of a library. Dr. William Everett, that eminent teacher, once opened a course in Latin at Harvard College by saying—and to have heard him say it is a bright memory to me, "This, gentlemen, is a course which will never, under any circumstances, enable any one who takes it to earn a dollar or to gratify any wordly ambition." This noble heresy fell gladly on the ears of ingenuous youth, and they drew rich blessings therefrom, but, I suspect, to a coldly practical world it may have sounded like precious nonsense, and you may be sure that he who uttered it hoped that it would so sound. The incident is told because it well illustrates an attitude toward literature in general. It should be to the refreshment, the consolation of mankind, and not to his material gain or his mere amusement. Surely there is no animus on my part against practical or applied wisdom which conduces to the material betterment of man, or to civic and national splendor, but for the moment, and in the spirit of a partisan, let me plead for books which furnish solace and stimulus to the tired minds of all men.

How does this library really stand then in the realm of literature in the widest possible sense? As a matter of course it has the usual, the important, works of every age and country. Let us never tire of saying that its foundations were laid by earnest and scholarly men. No body of men, summoned to do a benefit to the city which they loved, could have done their work better than those early trustees and others associated with them. The monumental books are all here, and many, very many, rarities. Now and then comes to light some mysterious gap; where there is so much detail there are sure to be some mistakes. When the purchase of too costly originals has been inadvisable the library has sought to get good reprints, especially in

* Address delivered at Boston Public Library, April 2, 1900.

English and French literature. We still lack, in common with all American libraries, the comforting sense of completeness, but we are young yet, and hopeful withal. There is not to-day in this country a library where could be written a history of English literature, based on approved and scientific principles, and there is no single library able to furnish material needful for a history of American letters.

This library, aside from its respectable general treasures, has much good matter in English literature housed in the Barton collection. The wealth of the Shakespeare portion is well known, but there is also excellent substance dealing with the 17th and 18th centuries. Early French letters are favorably represented by some exceedingly choice texts. Our foundations are large and valuable both in national literature and history. The Prince, Barlow, Franklin, and John A. Lewis libraries make a strong combination never to be excelled, perhaps never again equalled. I should be glad to think that in the great coming library of New York, the focus of our civilization, there might eventually accumulate so good a collection of "Americana," but it seems hardly probable, at least for some time to come. The priceless value of the Ticknor library of Spanish and Portuguese works, rich in all scholarly directions, has long been recognized, but the future of this inestimable possession is to be more glorious than its past, in view of the widening interest in West Indian and South American affairs, where Spanish culture has left a perceptible if not gratifying effect. The German, French, Italian, Scandinavian, even the Russian, and Eastern European literatures are more than respectably represented in this library. We are sadly deficient, however, in Dutch works, and during recent years the general high average of important continental literature has been only fairly maintained. I do not criticise the share which this library has recently taken in the socializing tendencies of this city, but it is quite proper for citizens to understand that the idea is now stronger than it used to be, of furnishing mental amusement — light refreshment, so to speak — and that the maintenance of an expensive system of branches and sub-stations draws heavily upon the financial resources. Every progressive institution is poor; can it possibly be true that the citizens of Boston imagine this library to be in possession of funds sufficient to equip it as it should be equipped? The older books need tender care; the cost of maintenance is inevitably out of proportion to

the apparent growth; meanwhile the demands of the present are more and more urgent.

I have strayed a little from my subject, but before passing on let me recall that the noble Parker library is a notable gathering of universal literature, of a sort which it would be exceedingly difficult to pick up again. Special encouragement comes sometimes by such a gift as that recently made by the Browning Society, of works by and relating to Robert and Elizabeth Browning. A few enthusiastic young men, some of them from Philadelphia, have in late years started a Walt Whitman alcove; while Miss Victorine Artz, of Chicago, by a gift of \$10,000, has made it possible to open in earnest an alcove devoted to American and English poetry. Much of this growth goes on quietly, unknown to the public generally, and almost unperceived by us, who are absorbed in our own special duties. Work in a library, my friends, is not all cakes and ale, as many suppose it to be. Association with books is, I am sorry to admit, something like dog breeding — admirable for the books and the dogs, but rather belittling to the human being. Much of it is nervous, dirty, fussy detail, with no tangible end in view from an individual standpoint. The fun is in seeing the thing grow, to realize that one's own life and strength pass imperceptibly into the totality of result. A library is a cemetery in more senses than one. It absorbs youth, ability, and fine enthusiasms. The great public catalog, unquestionably the grandest achievement of its kind, is a huge Moloch, so far as we are concerned. Our eyesight, our backs and legs, our patience, and the sweetness of our lives have all gone into its insatiable depths. Scorn not its limitations and its imperfections therefore — they are the imperfections of human nature itself.

In every large library there are periods of uneven, ragged growth. It is neither possible nor practicable to keep the development perfectly normal; though progress of some sort is making all along the van. This is due to the tastes, sometimes the caprices, of trustees, or of certain members of the working force, and sometimes to persistent recommendations from active citizens and students. It is astonishing into how few hands the welfare of any great institution is practically committed. The elect are ever busy over their unceasing contention against ignorance, while that huge, indefinable, and dormant creature, the public, patiently yet ungratefully accepts the results achieved by the unselfish few. This superb building was

put through by the bold, almost arrogant, defiance on the part of five men, of public opinion, and of the jeers and insults of the press. But it was built on that wholesome principle enunciated by the late William H. Vanderbilt: "The public be damned." So it is with the growth of the books. These personal tastes and obstinacies have in the aggregate achieved fine results. I remember one trustee who was averse to the purchase of any book which did not contain a map.

Recently was a mighty rage for books on theosophy, palmistry, cartomancy, and astrology. To-day theosophy is as dead, so far as this library is concerned, as, as — well — as it deserves to be. The spring of each year brings its demands for new books on yachting, boating, road-maps and fishing, for we are a sporting community. In the fall comes a freshened interest in games and customs incidental to the religious holidays. These are the superficial and passing interruptions. The deeper interests of scholarship and investigation are not disturbed by times and seasons. Constant indeed is the clamor for genealogy, local history, and — *miserabile dictu* — mental or Christian science. That is a topic on which it is dangerous to rouse a conscientious librarian.

All these demands must be met in some fashion, but the more serious requirements are never to be neglected. During the presidency of Mr. Abbott, it is a pleasure to recall that no valuable work, reasonably within our means, was allowed to slip from us. Men who are willing to face criticism by paying \$7000 for one work, \$2500 for another, \$1200 for a third, and \$800 for a little map of Boston, have the year of our Lord 2000, and not the fear of men to-day, shrewdly in mind. Unworthy is the librarian or trustee who whispers to himself, "What has posterity done for us?"

In the department of the humanities of which we are speaking, this community owes a lasting gratitude to Prof. Henry W. Haynes, a former trustee, who interested himself in the obtaining of many works of the highest character, which might have slipped the notice of others. He was the means of bringing our collection of Egyptian archaeology to the highest efficiency. Of late, Dr. Ripley of the Institute of Technology has interested himself in European anthropology and ethnology in our behalf, until this library now holds perhaps the first rank in this important field. If the statistical department continues to grow as it has been growing it is within possibility that we

shall have the leading place in this country on sociological matters. Within a few months we have been so generously enriched by such public citizens as the sons of the venerated Garrison and by the disinterested services of Colonel Higginson that our archives now hold the most important anti-slavery manuscripts in the world. One good thing brings another. Only the other day the city of Boston received the priceless literary remains of the late Rufus W. Griswold, the first modern American critic. These came through the friendly offices of two men — one of New York, one of Cambridge.

I mention these few instances of devotion, not to signalize a special generosity, but to call attention to the fact that this unsteady growth is really the most healthy. A plump and even development would not be so impressive, and would at best represent only a constructive genius of a commonplace order. So long as the aggregate is harmonious we need not alarm ourselves about the sporadic nature of the components. A healthy obstinacy in these things is always desirable. Little confidence is to be placed in the man or the institution too ready to do what people will like. There is but one consuming ideal which a large library has a right to cherish, and that is to have on its shelves every broadside, pamphlet, or book which ever was or ever will be printed. He who thinks to-day that he can choose with entire wisdom is a fool; and I believe, in company with my honored associates, that any man, or institution, or church, which undertakes to prescribe what another may read is knavish. The patrons of libraries in this broad land should look to it that they do not find themselves in intellectual bondage to small ideas. If we librarians do not meet you fairly on this question of a just freedom, it is your duty to rail at us until we yield. Americans are brave under every fire but that of ridicule — when that begins we wince. Nothing can withstand a broadside of honest Yankee humor. There is something in human nature which resents patronage. Do you remember how Stalky and Company — that atrocious trio of Kipling's — used to revile "Eric or Little by little," and "St. Winifred's or the World of school," two exemplary but unread boys' books? These young devils had delicate and proud souls, and wanted no sugar pap.

However, this is debatable ground, and here is no place for discussion. Let me, however, contribute a modest suggestion to the unending controversy over the policy of exclusion.

Books impress me very much as people do. Some are very good or very bad, more are pretty good or pretty bad, the majority are neither good nor bad—but indifferent. But every book like every person is born into this world without any particular desire on society's part that it should be born. Once born it has its own way to make in the world, but it has a sort of status as an accomplished fact. A great library is like a great city—full of all strange things. Some of the population of the city sit in high places, and live on nice streets, others are imprisoned. If a book is bad it ought to be shut up like any malefactor, but I am opposed to capital punishment. The human entity and the literary entity both have to be recognized, though it is a wearisome problem. Everything human is a problem for that matter. A good clergyman told me the other day that we were all "a rum lot." So with books; many of them are certainly a "rum lot," but I don't feel sure that they ought to be strangled at birth, as some progressive thinkers propose to do with undesirable babies. When mankind grows better there will be better books, but not, I suspect, many greater than are already written. Nothing less than the totality of human knowledge should satisfy us. In front of this lofty ambition we should never suffer to be stretched for a moment the paralyzing hand of social or ecclesiastical influence of any sort.

Let us examine for a few moments the standing of this library during the past ten years in what may fairly be called literature. In 1891, when the appropriation for the year was \$150,000, there were purchased as follows: In bibliography and literary history, 565 volumes; in American literature (including history and biography), 2909 volumes; in English literature, 1555 volumes; in French, 648; in Italian, 241; in German, 452; and in classical philology, in its widest sense, 250. In the year 1893, with an appropriation of \$155,000, were bought in bibliography and literary history, 789 vols.; in American literature, 4000 vols.; in English, 2067; in French, 1224; in Italian, 333; in German, 728; and in classics, 419 vols. In 1898 the appropriation was \$245,000, but the purchases in bibliography fell to 554; in American literature to 2539; in English to 1334; in French to 721; in Italian to 198; in German to 647; and in classics to 304. In 1899, the report for which is not yet published, the appropriation was \$255,000, and there were purchased in bibliography, 506 volumes; in American literature, 3079, a gain of 500 over the preceding

year; in English, 1858, another gain of 500; in French, 1171, a gain of 400; in Italian, 427, a gain of over 200; in German, 826, another gain of 200; and in classics a slight gain. This gain is gratifying, and shows a tendency to revert to the earlier and higher standard.

There is readiness to spend money in the directions of the arts—perhaps somewhat more for fine than industrial arts—the latter being a very vague term, which includes in our system everything useful from the raising of poultry to the latest development of naval ordnance. Great attention is now properly shown to all books in sociology and statistics, though it is just to mention that no small share of our accessions in these directions is secured by a wise system of exchange of duplicates and of our own publications. In Mr. Ford's department there is also a most seductive method of solicitation through which other institutions, cities, and countries are induced to believe that they are depriving themselves of a rare personal privilege if they do not send to this library all their publications free of expense to us. Genealogies and local histories—an expensive sort of publication—are now bought in answer to increased demands.

But more than all, the expense of the branches and stations have increased in proportion to an immensely improved utility. Duplicates, not only of merely popular but also of useful books, are bought as never before. The old policy used to be to buy one copy each of a foreign and one of an American edition of the same work, with now and then an admitted exception of some unusually popular book like Bryce's "American commonwealth," or Trevelyan's "Macaulay." But there was no attempt to meet any demand adequately, and as a result there was more money to spend on a greater variety of books. To-day there is a very faithful attempt made to supply in some measure the demand for the more usual books. It is a different policy and calls for no criticism at this time. It is, however, eminently fitting to recognize in the marked change of administration a concession to the theory which prevails everywhere to-day that the public has a just claim on amusement and entertainment. The old theory is inscribed in the north wall of this library: "The Commonwealth requires the Education of the People as the safeguard of Order and Liberty." This sentiment is so admirable and has sunk so deeply into our acceptance that it has come to seem commonplace—the fate of all sayings

which pass into the "general heart of man." There is nothing, however, in this legend regarding amusement or entertainment as safeguards of order and liberty. "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein." The greatest area in the domain of literature is occupied by prose works of the imagination, or fiction, so called. The novel ranges from George Eliot's grave ethical treatises on social life to the latest subjective experience of some very new or neurasthenic male or female, quite often with an extensively advertised "past." They are all estimates of human existence as seen through the windows of each man's or woman's soul, inevitably dimmed to some extent by inheritance, prejudice, bitter experience, wasted passion or exquisite self-sacrifice or sensibility. All have some pathological value; the vast majority are devoid of true literary skill, but they are indeed expressions of life, and the meanest is not without some significance. It is these productions of the restless human spirit which mankind insists upon reading, not consciously so much for amusement as for refreshment. It is my humble opinion that Alexander Dumas, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson—the romancers greater or smaller—have relieved more cases of nervous exhaustion than did ever bromide of potassium. Mental science is valuable therapeutics for people with no minds; but for the wearied brains and bodies of overworked shop-girls, clerks, housekeepers, bread-earners generally, I prescribe you a romance, across the pages of which flash the drawn swords of Athos, Porthos, and Aramis.

As I said, the citizens—I had almost said the taxpayers, but that is a pleasantry—the citizens want these stories, and they hopefully frequent these halls to get them. There are at least 50,000 people in this city who want to be reading, at this moment, "David Harum," "Janice Meredith," and "Richard Carvel," and a fresh army is at our ramparts crying for "To have and to hold"—for four days only. It takes more than the ample purse of this rich city to feed such an appetite. At such a point begins the problem of attempting to minister to the pleasure rather than to the needs of a population. The more that attempt is made the weaker relatively becomes a library in other and better directions. I wish from the bottom of my heart that all works of fiction might be bought on the recommendation of the public—no book to be bought without five endorsers. That would give the public an admirable opportunity to decide what it really

wants, without the subvention of a corps of moral advisers in the matter. Then let a charge of one or two cents a week per book be imposed. The supply of copies could be regulated by the demand. Some books might pay for themselves—while a possible profit on others is conceivable. The suggestion is no more unreasonable than the modest charge for a towel and suit at the Revere Beach Bath House. The poor man's ocean costs him something, you see; why not a self-respecting relation to the "poor man's university"? After a novel has been three years in the library all charges might be waived. This would throw open a large and desirable array of novels on the same terms as for the serious books, which in their turn would receive more consideration than ever. Thus might the percentage of fiction reading be legitimately lowered. The original plan of this noble institution would thus be carried out; its ends faithfully subserved. It would be as free as every church of the living God ought rightly to be, while the people could use the less serious portions on the same terms on which they now use the theatre or the concert, yea, even as the municipal concert.

We honestly bid you welcome to the Republic of Letters. If we are sometimes impatient, you too can be very trying. Our hearts are in the right place; if our heads go wrong, what wonder is it, in this vast forest of accumulated wisdom and folly, that we miss the way? We have, thank God, no "walking encyclopedias" in our ranks. Like the "complete letter-writer" he is a dangerous fellow, but held by the populace in much esteem like some King of Pain or Natural Bone Setter. Into this Republic, then, you are hospitably invited. Here is no caste, no color, no creed; no titular distinctions, only those just gradations based on performance and ability. Here you should finely sympathize with the spirituality of Catholic Dante, or be able to hate with the fierce Protestantism of honest Sam Johnson, or test appreciatively the keen critical blade of sceptical Renan. But the realm of literature will have little meaning or value to any of us, if we do not regard it as the approach merely to life itself—to life, the one always open book, the inexhaustible theme, full every moment of comedy, tragedy, cross purposes, baffled hopes, hard earned triumphs, and disillusion or great peace of mind at the end. Unless we apply literature to the interpretation of the infinitely wider and nobler thing—life, it must be profitless and of no avail—a selfish and lazy indulgence.

SOME OF THE DANGERS OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING,
PARTICULARLY IN LIBRARY WORK.*

BY ALLEN C. THOMAS, *Librarian Haverford College, Pa.*

I WISH to state at the very outset that nothing is further from my purpose than to find fault with library schools or instruction in library methods. These have not only given instruction that was much needed, but have revolutionized the character of library work and added increased dignity to the profession. Personally, I feel much indebted to trained library workers, and have had occasion to recognize and profit by their skilled assistance. What I have to say is rather in the way of suggestion than criticism. Of dangers to be avoided are:

(1). *Narrowness.* This is a danger incident to all technical training in special work. It is almost inevitable that when the mind is concentrated upon a comparatively small field, the value of that field will be overestimated. The mind tends to lose the sense of proportion, or, as the historical critics say, of perspective. Perhaps I may illustrate from the historical field. This lack of perspective is painfully evident in much of the work of German students. For instance, Von Holst, in his "Constitutional history of the United States," gives one volume to the period 1750-1832, and six to the period 1828-1861; or, to put it in another way, he gives but one volume to the period 1750-1832, the years of formation and early testing of the Constitution, while he devotes a larger volume to 1854-1856, only two years, which, from any point of view, cannot be regarded of such great distinction. As in other fields, so in library work there is need of proportion or perspective, for some apparently fail to see that after all the classification, the catalog, and the various devices for arranging and distinguishing books are a means and not an end; that they have been devised only for the purpose of enabling a reader to get the information he desires surely, quickly, and with the most comfort to himself. It may seem a platitude to say this, and yet one would infer from the words and manner of some librarians that they thought a library existed only to be classified and cataloged and ordered according to the A. L. A. rules, the Dewey

classification, and Cutter's book numbers. Their attention had been so fixed on systems that they forgot that for which the systems exist.

(2). So closely allied to narrowness as to be almost a part of it is the danger arising from *Technicalities*. Some library workers apparently think the only use for a book is to be classified. But some books, like individuals, will not be held in by conventional rules; they positively defy those who would thus hamper them. A sharp lookout should be kept for such books, and care should be taken not to restrict their usefulness by seeking to confine them within those bars from behind which they will cry, like Sterne's starling, "I can't get out." In other words, the classifier must be willing occasionally to throw away his rules and classify a book according to its idiosyncrasies; otherwise the book will be lost to the reader, hidden from him by the very methods which were intended to bring it to light.

(3). A third danger is that of *Officialism*. Up to 1820 the term of office for almost all government office-holders was during good behavior. But in that year, 1820, William H. Crawford, of Georgia, succeeded in getting a bill through Congress which limited the term of very many officers to four years. This was the real beginning of the "spoils system" in politics. One of the reasons given for the action was the "officialism" of many of the office-holders of that day. The term is hard to define, but any one who has come in contact with French or German officials needs no definition of what it is in its worst aspect. Far be it from me to apply this term even in the mildest way to the modern librarian. There is, however, a risk of those with a knowledge gained mostly from instruction and but slightly from experience showing too much of the official, and not enough of the officer, whose first duty is to serve those for whom his office exists.

(4). A knowledge of technical rules and systems is very apt to beget a feeling of *Impatience* towards those who are ignorant of such technicalities and systems. A librarian should be no more impatient at what seems to be stupidity in others, than a man in a bureau of

* Read at Joint Library Meeting, Washington, D. C., March 31, 1900.

information at a railway station should be, when asked if the eight o'clock train leaves at seven thirty, or if he is *sure* that he knows the hour at which a train leaves the station.

I fear Dr. Canfield was only too correct the other day when he said, parenthetically, that "of course the card catalog exists for the librarian." The number of cards, the various colors, the cabalistic characters on the upper left-hand corner of each card, written as they often are in black or in red ink, or in both, are quite enough to bewilder if not distract the average man, not to say woman, while even the cultivated reader is at a loss to know whether Friedrich Wilhelm Heinrich Alexander *Freiherr* von Humboldt is his old friend Alexander von Humboldt. We must have pity and great patience, my fellow workers, with the reader who is benumbed in the presence of a thorough-going Dictionary Card Catalog.

(5). One more danger, and this a peculiarly personal one. Some one has said that the average

person is a victim of *arrested development*, and the passing years bring an increase of knowledge only in very exceptional cases. While we who are in the library profession may hesitate at ranking ourselves as average persons, it will not hurt us to give this matter a little consideration.

As has been said, technical education tends to narrowness, and narrowness is arrested development in some direction. Many librarians are overworked. They must, of necessity, give up most of their time to technicalities and routine; and the tendency towards arrested development is very real and sometimes very strong.

To be aware of a danger is almost to avoid it; to be conscious of an inclination is a long way towards controlling it.

To be on the alert to gain knowledge; to preserve a broad outlook; to exercise a wide sympathy with others—these should be the constant aim of a true librarian.

AN EARLY FRENCH "GENERAL CATALOG."*

BY GEORGE WATSON COLE.

AMONG the many schemes for "general catalogs" of national literature, there is one, the existence of which, I think, is not generally known, even among our own profession, and which owed its origin to the French Revolution. In that great upheaval and overturning of civil and religious society, many libraries—among which were those of the monasteries and other suppressed establishments, as well as those which had belonged to the *émigrés* and to those who had been executed—were confiscated and declared to be a part of the national property. Decrees of the Constituent Assembly were passed in December, 1790, taking measures for the custody and preservation of the books, manuscripts, and other literary and art treasures of which they were composed. They were carefully gathered, placed under seal, and every precaution taken to ensure their safety from dampness, insects, and thieves. The following spring (May, 1791) instructions were issued to the custodians of all these collections requiring them to catalog

all the books and manuscripts placed under their charge.

These instructions were carefully drawn up, and as a code of cataloging rules, though now more than a century old, are exceedingly interesting and well worth our consideration, embodying, as they do, the first directions for the formation of a card catalog of which we have any knowledge. The first step to be taken, according to these rules, was to go through each of these collections of books and manuscripts, beginning at the left-hand case or shelf and ending at the right-hand one, and place in each book a slip of cardboard or paper slightly bent and projecting above the edges of the book so as to prevent its slipping down between the leaves and getting lost. These slips were to be marked in regular numerical order from 1 to the last book in the collection, one slip answering for each set of more than one volume.

The work of writing the cards was then begun. The custodians were instructed to procure a quantity of playing cards sufficient for writing all the titles of the books as well as for making the labels or numbers just described,

* Part of a paper read at Joint Library Meeting, Washington, D. C., March 30, 1900.

which was done by cutting the card lengthwise into two or three strips. It was recommended that those who were chosen to do the work should have some literary attainments and a knowledge at least of the Latin language. Any attempt to arrange or classify the books was expressly forbidden. In cataloging, the first book, numbered 1, was taken and its number written on the first line of the card, a space being left at the top for any notes which the authorities might choose to add afterwards. Following this number came the exact title of the book, carefully shortened if too long, but including the name of the author. Then followed, in the order named, the place, printer or publisher, date and size. To these, in exceptional cases, were added plates or illustrations, large paper, ruled paper, vellum or parchment, if printed on those materials, gothic type, and description of binding if remarkable. If a work was incomplete this was also to be noted. The name of the author was underscored, for convenience of alphabetical arrangement. If his name did not appear on the title-page, the cataloger was directed to search in the dedication, approbation, or privilege, to see if it was not given there, and if found it was to be inserted in its proper place. If the book, after this search, proved to be anonymous, the word in the title which best indicated its subject was to be underscored.

SAMPLE CARD.

310. Monumens de la monarchie française, par Bernard de Montfaucon. Paris, 1729 et années suivantes, in-f ^o , 5 vol., fig. gra., pap. rég., mar. vert.	
¹ St.-Germain.	² Gen.
³ St.-Léger.	⁴ 73 ^e .

After all the cards were written, they were to be arranged in strict alphabetical order, by authors' surnames or by subjects, following the words underscored on the cards. The method of sorting and arranging was given in detail for the benefit of those unaccustomed to such

work. When finally arranged these cards were to be fastened together in bunches, by taking a needle and waxed thread and passing them through the lower left-hand corner of the card in which a blank space had been left for this purpose. A blank was also to be reserved at the bottom of the card, similar to that at the top. In this lower space was to be written the number of the Department, the name of the District and parish, as well as that of the religious order or other library from which the book had been obtained.

That there might be enough blank space for writing, it was recommended, in case of very long titles, that the playing cards chosen should be those with the smallest number of pips, as the ace, deuce, etc., and with as plain backs as possible, so that, if the space for the title was insufficient on the face of the card, the back might be used to complete it.

After the cards had been fastened together, into separate packages, for each letter, they were to be copied upon ordinary paper, writing at the top of each page the initial letter of its first entry. The catalog thus copied and carefully collated with the cards was to be retained in the District. The cards were then carefully packed in boxes lined with oilcloth and covered with the same material and sent to Paris.

The last step in the process was to place on the edges of the shelves labels indicating the position of every hundredth number, so as to facilitate the finding of any book given in the catalog. In this simple manner the library was cataloged, numbered, and labelled, so that every book could be easily found without having changed the original order of a single volume as it stood upon the shelves, except to bring together the volumes of broken sets.

Special instructions were also issued for a catalog of all manuscripts which, when completed, was to be added at the end of that of the printed books. The instructions closed with a note saying that, if an insufficient quantity of playing cards were to be found, pieces of strong paper of the same size might be used, but that cards were preferable.

We see here not only the germs of some of our latter-day library inventions but the very things themselves: a card catalog, standard sized cards, shelf labels, a subject arrangement (for anonymous books), and could we have been present to see for ourselves, it is not unlikely that we might have seen many other features of library administration which we

¹District of St.-Germain en Saye.

²Parish of Saint-Léger.

³Library of Génovéfains d'Ennemont.

⁴Department of the Seine et Oise, which is the 73d.

have in fact borrowed, but which we fondly imagine to be our own latest and best inventions.

The object of this work, as stated in the first paragraph of the rules, was to obtain exact information in regard to all the books, as well printed as in manuscript, that existed in each Department and were a part of the national property.

What was the result of this work? We are told by the Bishop of Blois, Henri Grégoire, in a report made to the National Convention, in April, 1794, that 1,200,000 cards had been collected, representing over 3,000,000 volumes. An order was immediately issued requiring the work to be completed in four months from that date. Time does not permit us to follow in detail the history of this movement further than to say that in 1859, according to Edwards in his "Free town libraries" (p. 109), "it anticipated, indeed (on paper), sixty-five years ago (Feb., 1792) that general catalogue of the literary wealth of France which is," he says, "at length being steadily converted into fact."

Naturally the National Library profited largely by this work, and its administrators selected and gathered within its walls from these suppressed libraries an enormous quantity of works of the greatest rarity and value. To such an extent was this done that the staff of that institution was completely overwhelmed with this mass of literary treasures. In a report on that library made in 1848 by M. de Salvandy, he estimates the increase from this source alone at 240,000 volumes. —

A. L. A. EXHIBIT AT PARIS EXPOSITION.

In common with the other exhibits in the United States section of the Social Economy building, the library exhibit has settled down to the work for which it was sent to Paris and is attracting the earnest attention not only of European librarians and bibliographers, but Americans specially interested in the founding and development of libraries in their own towns have taken time to examine with considerable care the varied types of architecture shown by the photographs and methods as described and illustrated by the books and appliances.

In spite of the great demand for space the exhibit has had the good fortune to obtain an additional unit of installation, so that it now occupies seven rather than the six originally assigned to it. The additional unit has increased

the shelf capacity by nine feet and six inches and enabled a transfer of 121 photographs, etc., from portfolios to a wing-frame case. To summarize briefly, the material of the exhibit as finally arranged occupies 231 wing frames, 61 feet and four inches of shelving, and the space filled by the Wisconsin travelling and Carnegie home libraries, together containing 60 volumes. There are 635 photographs of library buildings and interiors, 54 plans, 11 picture bulletins, and 10 maps and charts arranged on 256 mounts, 22 by 28 inches each, and, in addition, three mounts containing printed matter. Of the 259 mounts all but 28 are in wing frames. These 28 are arranged in three portfolios and contain 37 photographs, nine plans, and the three sheets of printed matter. The library consists of 421 volumes. Thirty-two appliances, occupying eight feet and six inches of shelving, are shelf listed.

Among the most frequent visitors to the exhibit have been Mr. Paul Otlet and Mr. H. La Fontaine, the former the general secretary and the latter the director of the Office International de Bibliographie, of Brussels — both enthusiastic bibliographers and great admirers of American libraries and American library methods. Mr. La Fontaine has expressed a desire to duplicate, as far as possible, the American Library Association exhibit, and establish it at the Brussels office of the Institut as the nucleus of a permanent exhibit which would specially illustrate and emphasize the work of American public libraries. He feels confident that such an exhibit would not only be a revelation to Europeans, but would be a large factor in helping to bring continental libraries into closer touch with the people; in short, he believes such an exhibit would be an entering wedge marking the beginning of a new era in European libraries. It is impossible to talk with Mr. La Fontaine and not catch his enthusiasm and feel a warm sympathy in his work, his hopes, and his ideals. He is so thoroughly in earnest and so honest in his admiration of American libraries, which seem very largely the embodiment of his own ideals, that one cannot but hope that if he asks their assistance in establishing a library museum at Brussels it will be willingly and generously given.

In conclusion, it is a pleasure to report that the American Library Association exhibit has received a "grand prize," the highest award given by the Exposition.

PARIS, June 30, 1900.

J. L. HARRISON.

A PRE-REVOLUTIONARY LIBRARY COMPANY.

THE pretty little gray granite building of the Scoville Library at Salisbury, Ct., among the Taconic hills, houses two of the oldest circulating libraries in this country—the Bingham Library for Youth, established in 1803, and one established a generation earlier, in 1771, at Lakeville, Ct.

The original record-book of the latter is very interesting reading. The organization was complete; 34 "proprietors," among whom one finds many names of historic importance and many still current thereabouts, paid not less than 20 English shillings each for the privilege of drawing five books "on one night," at the four stated meetings of the year and "at such other times as shall be diverted thereto by the company." Nor may a proprietor seek to share his privileges—and his dues—with others. If he "lend to be carried out of his house" a book—eight pence for each offence! Of officers there are a clerk a moderator, an auctioneer and a library-keeper, whose chief duty seems to have been to erase the marks of careless handling and to collect fines—4d. if a book is not returned on time, 3d. per week until returned—assessed by a committee of inspection, "whose duty it shall be to examine and inspect all books as they are turned into said library."

The committee took their task seriously, and the painstaking library-keeper has left a record whose Anglo-Saxon directness reflects his abhorrence of the offences committed upon his beloved books, while it contributes to our knowledge of the customs of his times. He or they—for the record is in more than one hand—respected not persons, and the transgressions of a Revolutionary colonel or of the wealthiest proprietor are recorded as unflinchingly as those of the less renowned. Here are some circumstantial details: "Ten leaves turned down," "Leather cover scratched," "First and last leaves scabbled," "Leaf 26 tore out," "A hole gouged out of the first leaf," "Nastied all over with tobacco-juice," "Stained with red ink," etc. There seems to have been a fixed rate of damages for accidents brought about by the use of tallow-dips. Our poor ancestors must needs have held their books very close to the flames, for there are entries: "Blackened with the snuff of a candle," "Greased in the margin," etc. One drop of tallow is fined 1½d., and "Greased and dirtyed all over" 1s. Perhaps the unfortunate who "Scratched a hole through leaf" was trying to undo the effects of his first accident with the drop of tallow, but if so, he counted without his host, for the relentless committee fined him 2d.

It is pleasing to one's sense of justice to know that the rules provide for appeal to the company, and one would like to have been present at some of the sessions. Fines were paid, however, for in 1783 the revenue from "Fines and bidding" amounted to 6s. 1½d. The fluctuating value of the national currency causes in October, 1790, an entry of loss from the "dif-

ference," or depreciation, "in coppers, since a great part of them were taken into the treasury."

The entry "Money received from Fines and Bidding" is explained by reference to the section of the constitution which provides for an auctioneer "whose duty it shall be to cry any book bid for and strike it off to the highest bidder." This was done at the meetings of the proprietors when the clerk read aloud the catalog of books in the library and the proprietor who first called for any book was entitled to the same. "But if any person shall be uneasy about a book"—delightful phrasing of the state of mind of the modern book-devourer—"he shall have it for one copper more, and so on to the highest bidder." No wonder that the list of officers includes a moderator, whose duties are seemingly undefined.

JULIA B. ANTHONY,
Packer Collegiate Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

LEATHER FOR BOOKBINDING.

IN the *Journal of the Society of Arts* for March 30, 1900, Douglas Cockerell contributes an interesting paper on the qualities and defects of leathers used in bookbinding. The lack of durability of the leather used for binding books has long been notorious, and Mr. Cockerell first considers the theories most generally accepted as to the cause. There are three theories that suppose the damage to take place after the books are in the library: damp, excessive heat, and the fumes from burning coal gas. "Damp," says Mr. Cockerell, "as far as I have been able to ascertain, is not nearly so injurious to leather as excessive dryness. In extreme cases, where books are kept in a confined, damp space where air cannot freely circulate, the growth of mildew will be encouraged. Although this is undoubtedly injurious, it is not the bindings that are exposed to damp, but rather those exposed to excessive heat that first show damage." As for excessive heat, the best tanned leather, when exposed for even a short time to a temperature exceeding 100° cent. loses its flexibility and toughness. It appears to be the case that a long exposure to lower but still excessive dry heat tends to the same result. It is, therefore, advisable to pay great attention to top ventilation in libraries. "This heat theory would account for the damage were it not that old bindings that have been exposed to the same conditions are often found comparatively uninjured side by side with those on which the leather is utterly rotten."

As a result of numerous chemical analyses it was found that there was nearly always a considerable quantity of free sulphuric acid present in the leathers that had perished. "As sulphurous acid (becoming after a time sulphuric acid by absorption of oxygen from the air) is one of the substances given off when coal gas is burnt, the theory that the damage was caused by gas was arrived at." This was a most comfortable theory—for the bookbinder and the tanner. It was nobody's fault, a sort of law of nature, and, though hard, it had to be

put up with. But unfortunately for this theory, it was found that the early decay of binding, and the presence of sulphuric acid in the leather, were not peculiar to libraries in which gas was used. Sulphuric acid in leather is due to a process of finishing in tanning to give the leather a uniform color—an "even shade." This is the source of the whole difficulty.

"Leather in our climate contains about 15 per cent. of water. If only a small quantity of sulphuric acid is left in the skin, that may, in solution with the 15 per cent. of water, be too weak to be immediately injurious, but if the leather is subject for any length of time to hot, dry air, the water will evaporate, but not the acid, so that as the leather gets dryer the solution becomes more concentrated, and at last becomes strong enough to destroy the fibres. So that it will be seen that apart from the gas theory the presence of sulphuric acid in the fibres of perishable leather is amply accounted for, as is also the more rapid destruction of the top-shelf bindings." Mr. Cockerell then cited results from the use of various leathers, morocco, sheep, etc.

In the discussion of Mr. Cockerell's paper, Mr. Cobden Sanderson said he had much pleasure in supporting and in endorsing what had been said with regard to leather for book-binding. Mr. Cyril Davenport said that there was no doubt that modern leathers, instead of being the best material for binding, were often the worst; and that librarians would do well to substitute buckram or cloth for calf and roan. He believed that this was chiefly due to the use of aniline dyes, as their absorption seemed to require the addition of sulphuric acid.

Mr. Cockerell's paper is a strong indictment of modern methods of tanning, so far as durability is concerned. Many of our libraries are already beginning to substitute buckram for leather, and unless better qualities of leather can be secured the change cannot be made too soon. The paper in the *Journal of the Society of Arts* is a most important contribution to the question of "binding." S: H. RANCK.

TRAINING CLASS FOR CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS AT PITTSBURGH CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

THE Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh will start, in the autumn, a class for training its children's librarians, as the future opening of new branches and a large children's room at the central library will call for a corps of carefully trained assistants. Arrangements have been made with the Pittsburgh and Allegheny Kindergarten College for co-operation, giving those in training that part of the kindergarten course which will bring them into the proper attitude toward children and teach them to handle children in mass as well as individually. The course, as now planned, will cover two years of practical work, including the regular work in the six children's rooms, and practice among the home libraries, in the schools, and in the free kindergartens and summer playgrounds of the city.

CHILDREN'S LECTURES AT THE BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

From the 43d annual report.

BESIDES general assistance, the school-reference librarian gives definite instruction upon books as sources of information, and relative to methods of using the library. Her purpose is to teach simple and elementary facts regarding books, which, while prerequisite to their intelligent use, unless systematically learned, are likely never to be acquired. With this end in view, a course of three lectures has been prepared, and they are being given, the first to each class in the eighth grammar grade, the second to the ninth grade, the third to the first-year pupils of the high school.

The simplest lecture deals with the book itself. The children are shown a title-page and told the meaning of the imprint, publisher's name, place and date of publication. Turning the page, they are shown the copyright entry, and are told its meaning, how long copyright lasts, why the date of copyright is different from and more important than the date on the title-page; and finally are reminded of the clause of the Constitution authorizing Congress to grant copyright. Proceeding, the value of preface or introduction is suggested, the difference between a table of contents and an index is described, and how and when to use each. Finally, the chief steps in the manufacture of a book are detailed. The sheets of paper are exhibited as first printed, and are then folded into signatures; the manner in which signatures are sewn on the bands is indicated, and the way the back is rounded, the covers laced on, sided up and backed. Each step is illustrated by books in different stages of binding; and as the process is explained, it is carefully demonstrated how careless treatment injures the books. We are confident that more careful handling of the books has resulted already from the children's having gained an intelligent comprehension of how the book is made, why shutting a pencil in it starts the bands, or opening it improperly breaks the back.

The lecture given to the ninth grade pupils deals chiefly with the contents and use of common reference books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, gazetteers, biographical dictionaries, certain handbooks and almanacs, and Poole's index. The lecture, conducted largely by means of questioning, holds the interest of the children; while the answers to a set of test questions at the close show that the lesson has been grasped and can be applied.

For the high schools the lecture will deal with more advanced reference books and the use of the card catalog.

Some of the children attending these lectures have never been inside of the building before. Through the lectures each child is brought to the library at least twice in his life, given an idea of its value and methods of obtaining cards and drawing books, matters which otherwise some of them are too shy to inquire about. The lectures have thus far been given to about 400 children.

PAMPHLETS IN THE HARVARD LIBRARY.

From Report of the Librarian, 1898-99.

THERE is no intrinsic reason why pamphlets should be distinguished from books as to either shelving or cataloging, but most libraries are forced by considerations of expense to treat them in a more summary fashion. Up to 1877 this library cataloged all its pamphlets with substantially the same care that it bestowed on its books, but it bestowed the greater part of them in "pamphlet files" arranged in an alphabetical sequence by authors and tied up in bundles of convenient size; a relatively small number were separately bound and were shelved with the books. In 1877 the general cataloging of pamphlets was suspended and has never been completely resumed. Of the pamphlets received since that date a somewhat larger proportion (generally several hundred a year) have been separately covered, and treated in all respects like other bound books; annual reports and similar documents, the earlier numbers of which were already in the old files, have been sent to the same files to join the sets to which they belong; another portion has been distributed into boxes alphabetically by subjects in the librarian's room; and the remainder have been sent to the pamphlet files where they form a "new series" arranged like the old series in alphabetical sequence but uncataloged. During the last ten years many pamphlets have been picked out from both the old and the new files and, with others from the boxes in the librarian's room, have been bound up in volumes classified sometimes by author, but usually by subject under such general heads as Painting, Massachusetts towns, Education, and so forth. Hardly any progress has been made in cataloging the contents of these volumes (now about 1500 in number), further than to insert under appropriate headings in the subject catalog references to each volume as a whole. It is the intention to take up these volumes when the strength of the staff will permit, and enter the several pamphlets of the subject volumes *separately* on the author catalog, but *collectively* on the subject catalog, and the several pamphlets of the volumes consisting of a single author's work separately (if necessary) on the subject catalog, and collectively on the author catalog. 182 volumes were cataloged in this way in the summer of 1898, and the method was found to be satisfactory.

In the autumn of 1898 the pamphlets which had accumulated in the boxes in the librarian's room (about 10,000 in number) were reclassified so as to correspond more closely with the system of classification of the books, and the boxes were distributed through the stack, so that they now stand by the books relating to the same subject; there remains in the librarian's room a collection of booksellers' catalogs and special bibliographies, and pamphlets on those subjects which have not yet been classified; these also will go to the shelves as soon as the shelves are ready for them.

Pamphlets which come into the library as

current accessions are of different degrees of value. According to their character they are either (1) separately covered and treated in all respects like books, (2) distributed according to subject in the boxes already provided, or (3), if they cannot usefully be classified in this way, sent to the "new files" where they are alphabetically arranged and can be easily found. "Continuations" of course go to join the earlier number of their sets, wherever the sets may be. The great mass of our pamphlets belong to the second class above. These may be either (a) fully cataloged at once, (b) cataloged on a single author slip for the official catalog (this work is done by students who receive Price Greenleaf aid), or (c) left unrecorded. The pamphlets of which no record is made are principally articles taken from duplicate odd numbers of periodicals and reports, duplicate pamphlets which there is some reason for keeping, newspaper clippings mounted on uniform octavo sheets, and miscellaneous scraps and leaflets. The result is that we have a full record of part of our pamphlets, and of the rest a less full but very inexpensive record of all such as require a record; and that nearly all our current pamphlet accessions are found on the shelves with the books on the same subject. As the pamphlet boxes become filled their contents will be bound up in volumes which will remain on the same shelves and still bear the same shelf-marks. When bound each volume is likely to contain titles already cataloged in full, other titles recorded on the official catalog slip only, and others for which no catalog slip is thought necessary. The cataloging of the second class of titles should be completed by adding in the public catalog author entries and occasional subject entries when the collective entry under the general subject of the volume is not adequate, but whether this is done or not, we shall have a clue to all the material that is worth tracing.

A GERMAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THOUGH the German librarians had no formal organization, a number of the representative members of the profession met first at Dresden in 1897, and then at Bremen in 1899, to discuss questions of general interest and to consider the advisability of forming a library association similar to those existing in the United States and in England. Another convention was held June 7 and 8 of this year, at the library of the Marburg University. Fifty-eight librarians of the more important libraries of the German Empire were present, and Dr. Roediger, of the Marburg University Library, presided. After a day's deliberation the Verein deutscher Bibliothekare was organized, with Dr. Paul Schwenke as president. The following were elected vice-presidents: Prof. Karl Dziatzko, of Göttingen; Dr. G. von Laubmann, of the Royal Library, Munich; Prof. A. Ermann, director of the Egyptian section of the Royal Museum at Berlin. The council consists of the following members: Dr. Roediger, of the Marburg University Library; Prof. K. Schulz, of the Bibliothek des Reichsgerichts, at Leipzig;

Dr. Friedrich Ebrard, of the Frankfurt Library; and Dr. Schmidt, of the Grand Duke's Library at Darmstadt. The council, on motion of Dr. Dziatzko, was ordered to consider the practicability of a descriptive catalog of incunabula. Among the papers presented, but not read, were the following: "Libraries and the publishing trade," by Professor Schulz, of Leipzig; "On preparing a dictionary of German anonyms and pseudonyms," by Dr. Ippel, of Berlin, and Dr. Milchsack, of Wolfenbüttel; and "A bibliography of the German periodical literature of the 19th century," by Dr. Berg-höffer, of Frankfurt. The *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* was chosen as the official organ of the association. The convention was closed with a visit to the castle, and other places of note, and a banquet.

THE CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE international feature of the American Library Association has been very pleasant and very profitable during the past, and the gathering at Montreal was a fine tribute to this phase of the Association's work. If co-operation is of value the more extensive the co-operation the greater the results, and the broadening of the co-operative movement over the whole continent is something very much to be desired.

Canada has been quietly at work on the library problem for many years, and in her private, college, and public libraries and the legislation connected therewith has made some fairly good attempts at advancing library interests and solving library problems. To assist in this good work the Canadian delegates at the Montreal conference met in the McGill University Library and organized a Canadian Library Association, with the following provisional committee: Mr. James Bain, jr., Toronto Public Library, chairman; Mr. E. A. Hardy, Lindsay (Ont.) Public Library, secretary, and Messrs. R. T. Lancefield, Hamilton (Ont.) Public Library; C. H. Gould, McGill University Library, Montreal, and R. J. Blackwell, London (Ont.) Public Library. The committee will be glad to receive any suggestions that might aid them in their work. E. A. H.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE fifth annual report of the Library Assistants' Association, organized in London in 1895, appears in the June number of the *Library Assistant*, the organ of the association. The association has now 173 members, of whom eight are honorary; 40 of the members constitute the Northwestern branch, with headquarters at Manchester. In 1899 a prize essay competition was instituted, by the offer of £20 as prizes from Mr. T. Greenwood, "but the number of competitors was very small, and in no way commensurate with the value of the prizes offered." The Greenwood prize essays of 1899 were succeeded by the Cotgreave prize essays in 1900. The latter competition was on a smaller scale, as to amount of prizes, "but the response has

again been somewhat poor in the number of essays, if not in the quality, and unless a larger number enter for these competitions the committee will seriously have to consider if the scheme is worth continuing." *The Library Assistant* has been regularly published, and seems to have reached an assured position; membership in the association carries with it the receipt of a copy of the *Assistant*.

LIBRARY HANDICRAFT AT COLORADO STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

A COURSE in "library handicraft" has been developed at the State Normal School of Greeley, Colo., which is rather a departure from the usual courses in library economy. Its aim is "to furnish an opportunity for handicraft with book-building as a center, and with paper stock as a beginning" — rather a vague statement of purpose, but it is apparently a combination of instruction in bookbinding with elementary bibliography, cataloging and library methods. One period of 90 minutes is given each week to class work, and a short period of 45 minutes is given each week to service in the library. The class work includes the making of pamphlet binders, recasing old sewing and backing, stitching or sewing, repairing books, wrapping and tying a bundle, mounting pictures and preparing passe-partout, making alphabets, illuminations, border and head and tail piece designs, making book-covers, book-marks, and other practical handicraft work. In the library the service required includes checking and charging until the student is proficient at the desk, shelf and reference work, classification and record work, accessioning, reference study, and the making of a brief author catalog, and of a bibliography of books about books. Recitations and class conversations are held on books and reading, printing, bookbinding, and bibliography, and each student is required to prepare for library binding a typewritten thesis on some subject which bears directly on the school-room or the library.

For about four years volunteer work in the library has been done by students, under the direction of Joseph F. Daniels, the librarian; but the real class work did not begin until September, 1899, and one school year has been covered in the laboratory work. During the school year of 1899 about 25 students entered the course. It is not thought or intended that this instruction shall prepare students for responsible library work, and of the 50 or more who have worked under the librarian only five have shown special capacity in that direction. "The real good which lies in the instruction," says Mr. Daniels, "comes out in the plain work of the school-room. I have looked after my people as they go out to teach, and I find that they are resourceful, and that they keep things tidy and in shipshape. They are school-room library people. They are not public library assistants. They know the bibliography of this or that subject in which they find interest, and they can read the English alphabet, a dictionary catalog, and the standard works of reference without much help."

APPOINTMENTS AT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

THE following appointments have recently been made to the staff of the Library of Congress: Mary G. Brown, Maine; Juul Diesrud, Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill.; Edward S. Evans, Virginia; Leroy A. Gilder, Alabama; William H. Huntington, Colorado; Clifton Jermane, Minnesota; John W. Kennedy, West Virginia; Charles A. Kreps, West Virginia; W. R. S. Leech, Maryland; Henry E. Lower, Ohio; Matthew Lyons, Indiana; Roscoe Mitchell, North Carolina; Kate E. Moten, District of Columbia; Lotta M. Neuhaus, District of Columbia; Elizabeth R. Nichols, Mississippi; Vernon S. Richard, Pennsylvania; Annie L. Sinclair, District of Columbia; J. L. Sullivan, Delaware; Neval H. Thomas, Ohio; Charles H. Walsh, Pennsylvania; Linnie Williams, Tennessee; Lloyd R. Youngs, District of Columbia.

BUREAU OF LIBRARY INFORMATION AT GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

A NEW departure was inaugurated at the biennial meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, held at Milwaukee, June 4-9, 1900. A Bureau of Library Information was established with Miss L. E. Stearns, library organizer of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, as chairman, assisted by a committee of 12 club women actively engaged in public and travelling library work. A room was assigned the bureau adjacent to the children's room in the new public library building, which was in itself an object lesson to the club women. The room was supplied with every conceivable library appliance for small libraries. Travelling libraries sent out to rural districts by the club women of Missouri, Kansas and Wisconsin were on exhibition, together with a travelling library on American history, with accompanying study outlines and portfolio of historical pictures for the use of small clubs in communities deprived of other library privileges. A travelling picture collection of 12 large framed photographs, illustrative of French art, aroused much interest. Birthday, Arbor day, and other forms of bulletins prepared by club women for the use of libraries were shown. Copies of public and travelling library laws from all the states from Maine to California were distributed, together with helpful printed reports of library work done by women of the various state federations. Pamphlets showing how to obtain library legislation, state library commissions, etc., were eagerly sought for by the delegates. The room was thronged with inquirers from early morn till late at night. A speaker at the closing session of the biennial meeting, in summing up the benefits of the five days' sessions, stated that the value of the Bureau of Library Information was immeasurable and should be reckoned as first among the great benefits derived from the fifth biennial meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

American Library Association.

President: Henry J. Carr, Public Library, Scranton, Pa.

Secretary: F. W. Faxon, 108 Glenway street, Dorchester, Mass.

Treasurer: Gardner M. Jones, Public Library, Salem, Mass.

LIBRARY TRACTS.

The Publishing Board has issued Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the series of "Library tracts," authorized by the Atlanta conference of the A. L. A. These are: "Why do we need a public library?" a compilation of utterances and arguments on the need of public libraries; "How to start a public library," by Dr. G. E. Wire; and "Travelling libraries," by F. A. Hutchins. They are intended to meet the many requests for information that come from persons or communities interested in or desirous of establishing small public libraries. The tracts are well-printed twelvemo pamphlets, of from 12 to 16 pages, neatly bound, and are sold at five cents per single copy, or \$2 per 100, express unpaid. They may be ordered from the A. L. A. Publishing Board, 10½ Beacon street, Boston, Mass.

A. L. A. PUBLISHING BOARD.

The Publishing Board is prepared to furnish printed catalog cards for the "Old South leaflets," of which 100 numbers have been published. These cards will be issued in sets, each set comprising about 200 cards, at the rate of 75c. per 100 cards. Subject headings are indicated at the bottom of the card, and enough cards will be furnished for catalog entries under the author and under the subjects indicated.

Orders, stating size of card desired (5½ x 12½ or 7½ x 12½ cm.), may be sent to the Directors of the Old South Work, or to the A. L. A. Publishing Section, 10½ Beacon st., Boston.

State Library Commissions.

COLORADO STATE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS: C. R. Dudley, chairman, Public Library, Denver.

CONNECTICUT F. P. L. COMMITTEE: Caroline M. Hewins, secretary, Public Library, Hartford, Ct.

GEORGIA LIBRARY COMMISSION: Miss Anne Wallace, secretary, Carnegie Library, Atlanta, Ga.

INDIANA STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION: W. E. Henry, secretary, State Library, Indianapolis.

IOWA STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION. State Library, Des Moines.

KANSAS STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION: James L. King, secretary, Topeka.

MAINE STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION: G. T. Little, chairman, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION: Miss E. P. Sohler, secretary, Beverly.

MICHIGAN F. P. L. COMMISSION: Mrs. M. C. Spencer, secretary, State Library, Lansing.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION: A. H. Chase, secretary, State Library, Concord.

NEW JERSEY PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION: H. C. Buchanan, secretary, State Library, Trenton.

NEW YORK: Public Libraries Division, State University, Melvil Dewey, director, Albany.

OHIO STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION: C. B. Galbreath, secretary, State Library, Columbus.

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION: Dr. G. E. Reed, secretary, State Library, Harrisburg.

VERMONT FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION: Miss M. L. Titcomb, secretary, Norman Williams Public Library, Woodstock.

WISCONSIN FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION: F. A. Hutchins, secretary, Madison; Miss L. E. Stearns, librarian, Milwaukee.

The Wisconsin Free Library Commission has issued a new edition of its "Suggestive list of popular books for a small library"—one of the most useful of the minor library aids.

State Library Associations.

CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Herbert E. Nash, Stanford University.

Secretary: J. H. Wood, Mechanics' Institute Library, San Francisco.

Treasurer: Miss Emily I. Wade, Public Library, San Francisco.

COLORADO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: A. E. Whitaker, State University Library, Boulder.

Secretary: Herbert E. Richie, Public Library, Denver.

Treasurer: J. W. Chapman, McClelland Library, Pueblo.

CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: W. J. James, Wesleyan University Library, Middletown.

Secretary: Miss Anna Hadley, Ansonia Library, Ansonia.

Treasurer: Miss Alice T. Cummings, Public Library, Hartford.

GEORGIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Walter B. Hill, University of Georgia, Athens.

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Anne Wallace, Carnegie Library, Atlanta.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: E. S. Willcox, Public Library, Peoria.

Secretary: Miss M. E. Ahern, Public Libraries, 215 Madison St., Chicago.

Treasurer: Miss Mary B. Lindsay, Public Library, Evanston.

INDIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Miss Helen Gullid, Bloomington.

Secretary: W. E. Henry, State Library, Indianapolis.

Treasurer: Miss Nellie Fatout, Anderson.

IOWA STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: W. H. Johnston, Public Library, Fort Dodge.

Secretary and Treasurer: Miss Ella McLoney, Public Library, Des Moines.

MAINE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: E. W. Hall, Colby University, Waterville.

Treasurer: Prof. G. T. Little, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

President: H. L. Koopman, Brown University, Providence, R. I.

Secretary: F. O. Poole, Boston Athenæum.

Treasurer: Miss Theodosia McCurdy, Public Library, Boston.

The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club was held in Natick on Thursday, June 21. The address of welcome by Mr. Wilson, president of the board of trustees of the Morse Institute, was followed by the reports of the treasurer and secretary. After the appointment by the chair of a nominating committee, Mr. R. G. Thwaites, secretary of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, and outgoing president of the American Library Association, spoke on "The collection and preservation of local history material by public libraries." It was an earnest plea in behalf of the future historian.

History, Mr. Thwaites said, is written that the world's memory may be kept alive. Each generation writes history from its own standpoint. The materials from which history is to be rewritten are the "bones and feathers," and these the libraries should collect. The local historian should be the medium through which the material is gathered. Macaulay says that the literary rubbish of one generation is the priceless treasure house to the next.

What shall the library gather?

1. The newspapers of the town, for they are the mirrors of the time.
2. Programs of religious, educational, or other local institutions.
3. Town reports, and county reports if the town is the county town.
4. Election notices, registration of voters, etc.
5. Year books and constitutions of lodges and associations.

The library is the missionary to the future. It should provide not only for the boy and girl but also for the scholar. It should stand for scholarship and be a storehouse of material.

Mr. Thwaites claimed that it is just as broadening for the child to know local history as to know nature, and in laying the foundation of civic patriotism the librarian becomes a teacher of it.

The secretary called attention to the catalog of the Massachusetts public documents which had been prepared by the club and issued by the state library. Whether this work is continued depends upon its usefulness, and if it is useful, librarians who have found it so should make it known to the state librarian.

The morning session was closed with brief

speeches by Charles Francis Adams, president of the Massachusetts Historical Society; Rev. H. F. Jenks, custodian of the Historical Society Museum, and James Kendal Hosmer.

After a visit to the Morse Institute Library and luncheon, the second session was opened. The nominating committee offered the following names and the secretary was authorized to cast one ballot: President, H. L. Koopman, librarian of Brown University Library; Vice-presidents, J. G. Moulton, librarian of the Haverhill Public Library; Mrs. M. A. Sanders, librarian of the Pawtucket (R. I.) Public Library; Secretary, F. O. Poole, assistant Boston Athenæum (re-elected); Recorder, Miss Nina E. Browne, assistant secretary A. L. A. Publishing Board (re-elected); Treasurer, Miss Theodosia McCurdy, chief of order department, Boston Public Library.

Miss Mabel E. Emerson, of the Providence Public Library, then gave a brief account of the sessions of the A. L. A. at Montreal, and Mr. F. W. Faxon, the newly appointed secretary of the A. L. A., gave a most entertaining account of the social side of the conference.

The meeting was closed with a ride through the Hunnewell gardens and Wellesley College grounds.

NINA E. BROWNE, *Recorder*.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

President: W. I. Fletcher, Amherst College, Amherst.

Secretary: Miss Ida F. Farrar, City Library, Springfield.

Treasurer: Mrs. W. A. Hawks, Meekins Memorial Library, Williamsburg.

The Western Massachusetts Library Club held its second annual meeting at Shelburne Falls, Mass., June 29.

The club has held three meetings during the year and has added 26 new names to its list of members. It has now a membership of 70, and about half this number have never before belonged to any library organization. It is the hope of the club that the coming year will add many more such to its membership. One of the definite aims of the club is to interest those who have not yet become interested.

After the reports of the secretary and treasurer were given and a nominating committee appointed the club was entertained by reports from the Montreal conference.

Miss Medlicott, of the Springfield City Library, gave an interesting general outline of the conference proper, while Mr. Stockwell, of Westfield, spoke in detail of the separate sessions, telling of some of the interesting discussions and important decisions. Mr. Stockwell was followed by Mr. Stone, of Springfield, who gave a humorous and interesting paper on the social side of the conference.

Luncheon was served by the local Woman's Relief Corps, after which the club visited the library.

The afternoon session opened with the report of the nominating committee. Miss Shepard, the chairman, presented the following list of officers, who were unanimously elected: Presi-

dent, W. I. Fletcher, librarian, Amherst College; 1st vice-president, Miss Lucy C. Richmond, librarian, Public Library, Adams; 2d vice-president, George Stockwell, librarian, Westfield Athenæum, Westfield; Secretary, Miss Ida F. Farrar, City Library, Springfield; Treasurer, Mrs. W. A. Hawks, librarian, Meekins Memorial Library, Williamsburg.

It was voted that the secretary be instructed to confer with the secretary of the Massachusetts Library Club with a view to getting out a co-operative handbook which should contain lists of the members, meetings, and constitutions of the three library clubs of the state.

It was suggested by Mr. Stockwell that if the executive committees of the three clubs of this state could have a joint meeting and plan out the programs for the year it would prevent conflict of dates and subjects, and make it possible for members to attend more meetings with greater profit.

Mr. F. W. Faxon of the state club gave a delightful description of the Post-Conference trip down the St. Lawrence and up the Saguenay, which was enjoyed from beginning to end, both by those who had taken the trip and by those who had not.

The discussion of the day on "What should be the age limit for registration?" was opened by Mr. W. I. Fletcher of Amherst College Library. He read from a paper written by him 25 years ago and published by the government in the report on "Public libraries in the United States," 1876, in which he strongly and cogently argued that libraries should make "no restriction whatever as to age. This course recommends itself as the wisest and the most consistent with the idea of the public library on many grounds."

Miss Shepard gave a most interesting account of the abolishing of the age limit and its results in the Springfield City Library, and then read a paper prepared by Mrs. E. N. Lane, who has charge of the children's department in the same library. She said that the greater part of the work in this department is with children who would be debarred from it by an age limit of 12 or 14 years. That in buying new books they try to secure those that are especially useful along the lines of school work.

The discussion was free and animated, by far the larger number of the speakers advocating no age limit and several reporting that they had abolished it some time ago with very satisfactory results. One reported registering children at an age as early as four years. Some libraries restrict the number of books allowed to children to one or two a week, while others allow books to be returned on the day of issue and others taken.

After a vote of thanks to the librarian and trustees of the Arms Library for their entertainment, one of the pleasantest meetings of the club was adjourned.

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: H. M. Utley, Public Library, Detroit.

Secretary: Miss Genevieve M. Walton, Normal College Library, Ypsilanti.

Treasurer: Miss N. S. Loving, Public School Library, Ann Arbor.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Dr. W. W. Folwell, State University, Minneapolis.

Secretary: Miss Minnie McGraw, Public Library, Mankato.

Treasurer: Miss Anne Hammond, Public Library, St. Paul.

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: J. I. Wyer, State University Library, Lincoln.

Secretary: Miss Bertha Baumer, Public Library, Omaha.

Treasurer: Miss M. A. O'Brien, Public Library, Omaha.

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: A. H. Chase, Concord.

Secretary: Miss Grace Blanchard, Public Library, Concord.

Treasurer: Miss E. A. Pickering, Public Library, Newington.

NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Dr. E. C. Richardson, Princeton University Library.

Secretary: Miss Clara W. Hunt, Free Public Library, Newark.

Treasurer: Miss Cecelia C. Lambert, Public Library, Passaic.

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Dr. J. H. Canfield, Columbia University Library, New York City.

Secretary: Miss M. E. Hazeltine, Prendergast Library, Jamestown.

Treasurer: J. N. Wing, Free Circulating Library, 226 W. 42d st., New York City.

OHIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Charles Orr, Case Library, Cleveland.

Secretary: Miss Martha Mercer, Public Library, Mansfield.

Treasurer: Miss K. W. Sherwood, Public Library, Cincinnati.

PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY CLUB.

President: Allen C. Thomas, Haverford College, Haverford.

Secretary: Luther E. Hewitt, Law Library, 600 City Hall, Philadelphia.

Treasurer: Miss Mary Z. Cruice, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY CLUB.

President: Miss Helen Sperry, Carnegie Library, Homestead.

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Mary F. Macrum, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh.

VERMONT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Miss S. C. Hagar, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington.

Secretary: Miss M. L. Titcomb, Norman Williams Public Library, Woodstock.

Treasurer: E. F. Holbrook, Proctor.

WISCONSIN STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Mrs. Charles S. Morris, Berlin.

Secretary: Miss Minnie M. Oakley, State Historical Society, Madison.

Treasurer: Miss Nellie C. Silverthorn, Public Library, Wausau.

A meeting of the Wisconsin State Library Association will be held in Madison, Friday, August 31. It will be preceded by a library institute, to be held for two days, Aug. 29 and 30, under the direction of the instructors in charge of the summer school. At the institute the subjects to be considered will include: The mending of books, bookbinding for libraries, periodicals for reference work, and work with the schools.

The program of the association meeting contains papers and discussions on the following topics: Women's clubs and libraries; preparation for library work; instruction in the use of books; library bulletins and holiday observances—do they pay? These topics will be discussed at the morning session on Aug. 31. In the afternoon there will be a business meeting, followed by readings from Robert Louis Stevenson, by Professor Pyre, of the state university, and a talk on the making of histories, by R. G. Thwaites. The new building of the State Historical Society will be open for inspection, and the evening will be devoted to the annual boat trip and camp fire.

Library Clubs.

BAY PATH LIBRARY CLUB.

President: Miss M. Anna Tarbell, Brimfield, Mass.

Secretary: Mrs. C. A. Fuller, Oxford, Mass.

Treasurer: Miss Nellie A. Cutter, Spencer, Mass.

The annual meeting of the Bay Path Library Club was held at the Warren Public Library, on June 28. About 100 persons were present, 20 libraries being represented by over 40 delegates. The morning session was opened at 10.30, with words of welcome from Wilson H. Fairbank, president of the Warren Library Association. Then followed the annual business meeting, at which the reports of secretary and treasurer were given, and a nominating committee was appointed. The Montreal conference was then described, as to its business and social features, by Miss Harriet B. Gooch, of the Hoston Free Library, North Brookfield, and by F. W. Faxon.

Miss Ada L. Joslin, of Boston, read a paper on "The work of the Woman's Education Association," which has now 37 libraries, and 13 art collections of about 100 pictures each, which are in circulation throughout the state. Miss Joslin's paper was supplemented by Miss Alice G. Chandler, of Lancaster, who spoke more fully in regard to her experiences in visiting the smaller towns where the libraries of the association are sent. A vote of thanks was extended to Miss Gooch and Miss Joslin for their excellent papers, and the meeting then adjourned.

to the home of W. H. Fairbank, where luncheon was served.

The afternoon session opened with the election of officers, according to report of the nominating committee, as follows: President, Miss M. Anna Tarbell, of Brimfield; 1st vice-president, H. L. Watson, of Leicester; 2d vice-president, O. F. Joslin, of Oxford; Secretary, Mrs. C. A. Fuller, of Oxford; Treasurer, Miss Nellie A. Cutter, of Spencer. It was decided that the fiscal year should end on the day of the annual meeting.

The subject of "open shelves" was then introduced by Miss Alice Shepherd, of the Springfield City Library, who spoke of conditions before and after its adoption in that city. She read a letter from J. C. Dana, who said in part: "Unless a librarian has seen a properly conducted open-shelf library in active operation, she does not really know what a public library is. Open or closed shelves in a free public library is not so much a question of methods as of spirit. The trustees and librarian, who manage the public property which has been put in their charge with a view to accommodating the public and interesting the public in good reading, and encouraging the public to make use of all their books, will be pretty sure to give the public very great liberties in the use of their library. They will be likely to come to the conclusion on general principles that the way to run a public library most effectively is to open it quite freely to all comers. The difference between an open library and a closed library is the difference between the atmosphere in the home of a friend to which you are always welcome, and that of an outer office of some great corporation in which an officious young man or young woman sits supreme in his or her power."

"The question of just how open a library should be in a given case, is one that can be settled only after examination of the situation as to room and books and community. The smaller the town and the smaller the library, the easier it is to open its shelves. The ideal library for a small community would seem to be one large, well-lighted room, without gate or bar at the entrance, without desk or counter or grating, or screen at any point inside, with a little desk or table somewhere near the door, at which the librarian and assistants shall sit, ready to greet those who enter; small cases, tables, and chairs scattered about the room, books without covers, conveniently arranged, no signs on the walls, nothing to indicate that it is anything other than a private library, kept by cultivated men and women for the use of each of them, when occasion arises."

An interesting discussion followed, in which Miss Chandler, Miss Thurston, Miss Hobbs of Brookfield, and Miss Miersch of Southbridge took part.

The other subjects presented and discussed were "Influencing the choice of books," introduced by Miss Ida Farrar; "Removal of the age limit," opened with a short paper by Miss Lane of Springfield; and "Reaching the outlying districts," considered in a general informal discussion.

LIBRARY CLUB OF BUFFALO.

President: H. L. Elmendorf, Public Library.
Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Ella M. Edwards, Buffalo Historical Society.

CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB.

President: W. B. Wickersham, Public Library, Chicago.
Secretary: Miss Margaret Zimmerman, John Crerar Library.
Treasurer: C. A. Torrey, Chicago University Library.

LONG ISLAND LIBRARY CLUB.

President: A. E. Bostwick, Brooklyn Public Library.
Secretary: Miss S. A. Hutchinson, Department Libraries, Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Treasurer: Miss Mabel Farr, Adelphi College.

NEW YORK LIBRARY CLUB.

President: Wilberforce Eames, N. Y. Public Library.
Secretary: Miss B. S. Smith, Harlem Library.
Treasurer: Miss Theresa Hitchler, Brooklyn Public Library.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITY.

President: H. L. Prince, Librarian U. S. Patent Office.
Secretary: W. L. Boyden, Librarian Supreme Council 33° A. A. Order of Scottish Rite.
Treasurer: T. L. Cole, Statute Law Book Co.
Meetings: Second Wednesday evening of each month; no meetings June to October.

Library Schools and Training Classes.

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL.

School closed according to calendar schedule June 22, but more than half the students remained till the following Tuesday. On Monday, June 25, Mr. Frederick M. Crunden spoke to the school, including the summer class, for two hours on the administration of the St. Louis Public Library.

On Tuesday, June 26, the school attended the library session of the University Convocation held in the Assembly chamber. Addresses were made by Frederick M. Crunden, W. E. Foster, Dr. J. H. Canfield, and Melvil Dewey. "Libraries as a source of inspiration," which was the general subject of the session, received unusually happy treatment, and formed an appropriate close to the year's work.

One of the special features of the year has been the effort to get in touch with library workers in the field by sending out students' work to be utilized directly in public libraries. 30 picture bulletins were made by the junior class for special libraries on subjects chosen by the librarians, and many of them, after serving their purpose in the libraries to which they were sent, have become travelling picture bulletins, passing from one library to another for temporary use in the loan depart-

ment. Most of the libraries have reported appreciation on the part of the readers, a stimulated circulation of the books on the list, and the students have had the advantage of detailed criticism of their work.

Special attention has been paid this year to book notes. Each student is required to submit a book note for the 100 books taken up during the year for discussion. Experiments in this direction lead us to believe that a thoroughly satisfactory book note should be not only descriptive and critical, but that it should show the spirit of the book and have an appealing quality, a sort of "come and read me" air. We also believe that a note of this sort which helps each reader in a very practical way to decide whether or not he wants to read a certain book, should be pasted in the book itself opposite the front cover, as well as placed in the catalog. Such notes will be particularly useful if access to the shelves is given. The best students' notes for the 100 books discussed during the school year have been sent to the Cleveland Public Library and used with the book itself, both in the central library and in the branches. Attendants report that the notes are liked by the readers, particularly in fiction. I would be glad to correspond with any librarian who would care to use these selected students' notes according to this suggestion.

SALOME CUTLER FAIRCHILD.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

The Illinois State Library School Association held a meeting in the McGill University Library at Montreal, June 11, 1900.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Miss Irene Warren. The greater part of the time of the meeting was given to the discussion of the work to be undertaken by the association. An earnest desire was expressed by those present that every effort be made by members to attend the meetings of the A. L. A., and it was suggested that the first meeting of the association be held as soon after the opening session of the A. L. A. as possible, to introduce new members.

On motion of Miss Wing, of the University of Nebraska Library, it was voted to adopt the pin of the University of Illinois as the insignia of the association. These pins may be purchased from the secretary.

At the request of some members of the association, a list of all members, with addresses, will be sent to each alumnus of the school, during September, 1900. It is hoped that this list may be the means of bringing the members closer together through correspondence.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Miss Evva Moore, librarian, Scoville Institute, Oak Park, Ill.; Vice-president, Miss Eleanor Roper, assistant, John Crerar Library, Chicago; Secretary and treasurer, Miss Margaret Mann, instructor, Illinois State Library School, Champaign, Ill.

The next meeting of the association will be

held in connection with the meeting of the A. L. A. in 1901. MARGARET MANN, Secretary.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SUMMER SCHOOL.

A summer school of library training will be conducted at the Minnesota State University, Minneapolis, under the direction and as part of the work of the Minnesota State Library Commission. The course will open July 30 and close Aug. 24; it is open "only to those who expect to teach or do library work in Minnesota"; and the chief instructors will be Mrs. W. J. Southward, a graduate of the Armour Institute Library School, and Miss Clara F. Baldwin, librarian of the Minnesota State Library Commission. There will be special lectures, and library visits will be made in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The tuition fee for the course is \$5, and the necessary supplies are placed at about \$2. Further information may be obtained from Miss Gratia Countryman, secretary, Minnesota State Library Commission, Minneapolis, Minn.

Library Economy and History.

GENERAL.

The Library opens its third quarter, for June, with a portrait and sketch of Herbert Putnam, in its series of leading librarians. There is an interesting article by George Somes Layard on "The 'pooling' of private libraries," suggesting that private collectors form federated library associations and prepare a general catalog of the books thus made accessible. The plan has been already carried out, through Mr. Layard's efforts, at Malvern, where the Malvern Federated Library was started in 1896 with a membership of 32 owners of private libraries. A general catalog, recording about 15,000 v., was prepared from lists sent in by members; and during the three years 1160 v. have been circulated. H. B. Wheatley contributes an important paper on "The British Museum revised rules for cataloging"; and the number has articles of varied interest from Archibald Clarke, F. M. Crunden, W. I. Fletcher, Charles Welsh, Cedric Chivers, Mrs. S. C. Fairchild, and others.

The *Library Association Record* for June opens with an excellent and interesting article by Miss M. S. R. James on "Women librarians and their future prospects," originally presented at the International Congress of Women, in London, June, 1899. The present conditions of library work for women in Great Britain are not found encouraging, but there are many broad opportunities for the future. Miss James gives a short list of some of the periodical literature upon the general topic of women in library work, and her paper is a fair and careful review of the subject. The number contains also a comparison of "Classified *versus* dictionary" for a printed catalog, by Henry Bond; and a paper on "Librarian and reader," by J. Ernest Phythian.

PALMER, Henry Robinson. The libraries of Rhode Island. (*In New England Magazine*, June, 1900. 22:478-500.) il.

An historical and descriptive account of Rhode Island libraries, with 28 illustrations. There are 37 towns in the state and 50 free public libraries.

SMITH, Katharine Louise. The provision for children in public libraries. (*In Review of Reviews*, July. p. 48-55.)

An illustrated article describing the children's departments of the Minneapolis, Cleveland, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Kalamazoo, Denver, Pratt Institute, and other libraries.

WYER, J. I. How to start a public library; reported from the Proceedings of the 34th annual meeting of the Nebraska State Teachers' Association. Lincoln, Neb., May, 1900. 8 p. D. (Bibliographical contributions from the library of the University of Nebraska, no. 2.)

A good practical "library tract," giving simple directions for starting public libraries in communities where library sentiment is to be created. Numerous references are given to the elementary literature of the subject, and the modest pamphlet ought to be of real usefulness in a wide field.

LOCAL.

Albany, N. Y. At the annual University Convocation, held June 25-27, one session, on the afternoon of June 26, was devoted to library topics. It was opened by F. M. Crunden, with an address on "Libraries as a source of inspiration," other speakers being W. E. Foster, Sherman Williams, of the State Department of Instruction, Dr. J. H. Canfield, and Melvil Dewey.

Baltimore, Md. Enoch Pratt F. L. The library opened its seventh branch without formal exercises on the afternoon of July 2. The new branch contains about 4000 v., and will be open daily from 2 to 9 p.m.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) L. (42d rpt. — year ending Feb. 28, 1900.) Added 5622; total 149,676. Issued, home use 86,057. Membership 2473.

There has been a decrease of 2884 in the circulation and of 35 in membership during the year. There has been an increased use of the reference department, where "the daily aggregate of outside requests for information from strangers and non-members has been unprecedented."

Brooklyn, N. Y. Long Island Hist. Soc. L. At a meeting of the society on June 21 action was taken toward the enlargement of the library's field and the extension of its privileges to the general public. It was voted that the corporation be authorized to maintain a general library, with a free reading-room, for public use. The action is of special interest, as the Historical Society has always been a strictly conservative body, and its fine collection of

70,000 v. — many of them exceedingly valuable and rare in the field of local history — has been accessible only to members or by special arrangement. Resolutions were adopted amending the charter in the directions indicated, and the amendments will be submitted to the Supreme Court before final action is taken.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) P. L. (2d rpt. — year ending Feb. 20, 1900.) A well-printed, neatly bound report, with many illustrations of the various branches that make up the Brooklyn Public Library. The accessions for the year were 21,990; total 37,651, of which 12,078 are in the Bedford branch and 10,379 in the Williamsburgh branch. Issued, home and lib. use 183,430, of which 66,755 were fiction. Statistics and percentages of home use alone are not given. New registration 9158; total registration 15,633. Expenses \$28,850.59.

The year was an active one, covering the period of settlement in the new quarters at Brevoort Place, which is now the main and administrative branch, and including the development of five other branches — Williamsburgh, East branch, South Brooklyn, Bedford Park, and Flatbush, the latter having been transferred from the management of the Brooklyn Public Library Association. A travelling library department has also been established, from which 9156 v. have been circulated to classes and study clubs. A brief report of the work of each branch is given, and analytical tables of statistics are appended. The report includes the estimate of appropriation for 1900, which was submitted to the city authorities, and which asked for \$150,585 to maintain a system including 10 new branches.

Cincinnati (O.) P. L. The new board of trustees of the Cincinnati Public Library was organized on June 14, with James A. Green as president, Eugene Schaefer, secretary, and Col. R. H. West, treasurer. The recently appointed librarian, N. D. C. Hodges, was unanimously re-elected, at a salary of \$3500 per year.

Cleveland (O.) P. L. Quite an extension of the children's work in the Cleveland Public Library has come about through the opening of three sub-branches since Jan. 1. These are smaller than the regular branches, the Detroit sub-branch being in a store-room next door to the Detroit street public school, the Hiram House sub-branch in the building of the social settlement bearing that name, and the Alliance sub-branch in the building of the Educational Alliance of the Jewish Women's Council. About 1000 books were upon the shelves in each place on the opening day, and some 15 or 20 of the best popular magazines were upon the reading-tables. The hours of opening are from 3 to 9 p.m. So far 90% or more of the work done at these sub-branches has been with the children and young people; all three are in the poorer districts, where good literature is scarce in the homes, and none of them were being reached to any extent by the branches or the school stations. Good results of the work are already evident.

Columbus (Ga.) P. L. A. At the annual meeting of the association on June 18, action was taken looking toward the future maintenance of the library as a city department connected with the school system. It was recommended that free reference use of the library be thus extended to pupils of the public schools and to the general public, and that the present membership fee of \$4 yearly be made an annual "book fee" of \$2. A committee was appointed to confer with the city council and trustees regarding the matter.

Detroit (Mich.) P. L. (35th rpt., 1899.) Added 6962; total 157,510, of which 8737 are unused duplicates. Issued, home use 450,812 (fict., adults 50.78%; fict., juv. 23.09%); recorded lib. use 509,506; use of periodicals in reading-room 182,890. New registration 5761; total registration (from 1895) 30,328. Receipts \$76,872.16; expenses \$44,334.63.

The library now contains 5829 v. in German, 3852 in French, and 1107 in Polish. A table is given, showing the cost of the books cataloged during the year in the several classes. Fiction leads, with \$2041.65; but the comparison would be more helpful were the number of volumes cataloged in each class stated. A large proportion of the circulation is through the schools; 111,836 v. have been issued in this way. There are 5062 v. in the school traveling libraries and in addition permanent collections are kept in the libraries of the high schools.

The printing of a new edition of the fiction-finding list was undertaken late in the year. A reading list on "Christian missions" was printed and distributed, in response to a suggestion from affiliated missionary societies, and "this inexpensive way of placing in the hands of many people lists of books in which they may be interested has been already suggestive of other lists to be issued in similar form"—among them lists on chemistry, pharmacy, and allied subjects, and on modern medical books.

The secretary of the board, Mr. Follin, has a short report, in which he recommends an early increase in the number of branches, and an enlargement of the children's room, with careful revision of the books placed there. He also suggests that the Detroit Bar Library Association might be induced to transfer its collection to the care of the Public Library, there to be developed and maintained as a special legal collection.

Fort Worth, Tex. Carnegie L. The cornerstone of the new Carnegie Library building was laid on June 13, with elaborate Masonic ceremonies.

Harvard Univ. L., Cambridge. Dr. Charles A. Cameron, who was arrested in March for stealing book-plates from Harvard University Library, in which he was pursuing investigations as a student, was arraigned on June 21 in the Middlesex County Criminal Court. He pleaded guilty, and the case was continued until next term for sentence.

Holyoke (Mass.) P. L. There is much interest

in the development of the plans for the handsome new library building now assured for Holyoke. The designs for the structure, which were accepted by the building committee of the library association several months ago, are the work of James A. Clough, of Holyoke, who has given his services to the library without compensation, making the work a memorial to his three daughters. The plans call for a building to cost about \$75,000. The site chosen is a central square, known as Athletic Park, on which it is planned later to erect two other buildings, an art museum and a science building.

The library building is to be of Greek design, 140 by 136 feet, the sketch plans showing a stately and harmonious structure. It will be built of Indiana limestone and light cream brick, and the roof will be tiled. There will be two stories and a basement. Approaching the building from the front, the portico on the first floor is reached by 13 broad granite steps, the portico itself being 10 by 48 feet. The pediment is supported by six Ionic fluted columns, with Ionic caps. From the portico one passes into the vestibule, 9 by 15 feet, and thence by an old Greek door into the rotunda or delivery-room. This room is 30 feet square and 30 feet high. Around the second floor is a gallery, from which entrance is made to the rooms of the second floor. Directly in front, as one enters, is the delivery-desk; the reading-room is at the right and the reference-room at the left, the latter having shelves for 2600 books. Back of the reference room is the librarian's private room, and back of the reading-room a cataloging-room. Entrance is also obtained from the side as well as in front. Back of the delivery-desk is the stack-room, 30 by 52 feet, with a capacity on this floor of 22,000 books. An equal amount of room is afforded in the basement of this part of the building, and also between the first and second floor, making the total capacity 66,000 volumes.

In the basement, plans have been made for a children's room, or juvenile department, 30 by 43 feet, which can be reached without passing through the library rooms above. Here provision has been made for shelving 4000 juvenile books. The basement will have toilet-rooms, and the boiler-rooms will be fireproof and as near dustproof as possible. The outline plan of the second story is similar to that of the first. A gallery encircles the rotunda, and at the right and left are art-rooms, each 30 by 44 feet in size. The lecture-hall is over the stack-room, and is 30 by 52 feet in size. Over the cataloging-room is the trustees' room, and over the librarian's room the committee rooms. These are respectively 14 by 15 and 12 by 14 feet in size. The entire sum necessary for the erection of the building has not been fully subscribed, but there is little doubt that it will be secured in good time.

Houston, Tex. Carnegie L. On June 18 the city council passed an ordinance providing for the establishment and maintenance of the Carnegie Library, to be established with the gift of

\$50,000 from Andrew Carnegie, upon a site to be provided by the city, and maintained by an appropriation of \$4000 annually by the city; and adopted the charter of the "Houston Lyceum and Carnegie Library Association" as a part of the ordinance. The charter provides for election and terms of office of trustees and for general administration. It also specifies that "the fund of \$2400 now going annually to the Houston Lyceum shall continue till the Carnegie Library building is opened and the \$4000 appropriation shall commence the year beginning with the opening of the Carnegie Library building."

Indiana travelling libraries. At the annual meeting of the Indiana Federation of Women's Clubs, opened on May 22, W. E. Henry, state librarian, presented a paper on "One year's results under the new library law." He said:

"On August 26, just nine months ago, the first travelling library went out, and by September 30, all of the 20 general libraries were out. On November 2 were added six study libraries, of which subject I wish to speak more fully later. On January 17, 20 additional general libraries were ready for circulation, and by February 10 all were in circulation. In 23 days the 20 libraries were out. We have 20 more general libraries almost ready for circulation, and money enough still unexpended to purchase about 10 more, thus making in all, ready for circulation by September, 1900, 70 general libraries and 20 study libraries; in all 90 libraries. Of our 40 general libraries, 25 are still in the field, and of the following statistics, a part are estimates based upon the experience of libraries so far returned. We have had 20 in circulation nine months and 20 for only four months, or 40 for an average of six and one-half months. So far our libraries have gone to 52 centers, in 34 of the 92 counties, and we have made 83 loans; that is equal to 83 libraries, each loaned once. In the 83 loans of libraries we have sent out 3242 volumes. Our record cards, which have not been well kept, and are therefore underestimated, show that of the 3242 volumes sent out, 2020 have been borrowed from the libraries, many of them each many times. These records further show that there have been circulated 5904 volumes."

Jacksonville (Ill.) P. L. (Rpt. — year ending May 31, 1900.) Added 1138; total 11,956. Issued, home use 40,533; lib. use 9610. No. borrowers 2601.

"Some progress has been made toward securing the amount of the building fund."

Jefferson City, Mo. On June 19 at a special election it was voted to provide a library site and appropriate \$3000 per year for library maintenance, thus securing Andrew Carnegie's gift of \$25,000 for a public library building. The vote on the measure was 839 in favor against 42 opposed.

Kansas State Normal School, Emporia. The school catalog for 1899-1900 contains several courses in reading prepared for the various classes of the school. Eight books are named in

each course and students are urged to select some one of the courses named and read at least five of the books listed. The school library now contains about 15,000 v.

Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. Van Wickie L. The Van Wickie Memorial Library building, erected at a cost of \$30,000 from the legacy of the estate of the late Augustus S. Van Wickie, of Hazleton, Pa., was dedicated on May 30. The address of the day, entitled "In praise of libraries," was delivered by Prof. E. C. Richardson, librarian of Princeton University, in the auditorium of Pardee Hall. Immediately afterward the large audience proceeded to the new library building, where brief dedicatory exercises were held.

Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Ill. The Arthur Somerville Reid Memorial Library of Lake Forest College was dedicated June 13. The building is of Bedford stone and is handsomely finished in stained Georgia pine. The cost was about \$30,000. The building contains a large unpacking room in the basement, a book room, periodical room and modern literature room on the first floor and three rooms on the second floor for documents, papers, and for committee and seminar purposes.

Lynn, (Mass.) P. L. (37th rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '99.) Added 2343; total 58,003. Issued, home use 107,279; ref. use 52,257. New cards issued 968 Receipts \$9533.01; expenses \$8655.53.

The report closes just prior to the removal of the library to the new and spacious building, erected largely from the bequest of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Shute. "The year 1899 closes a well-defined period in the history of the Lynn Public Library — a period of slow growth from small beginnings to the large and valuable collection which offers such grand opportunities to every inhabitant of our city." Comparison of the circulation statistics with the figures of 1898 show "substantial gains in every class except fiction, while for the same period the total delivery is less by 1173 volumes. It is not a great change, but it is all in the right direction, and, taken in connection with an increase of 6483 in the number of reference books used, it is an encouraging outlook for the coming year."

Madison (N. J.) P. L. The public library, presented to the citizens of Madison by D. Willis James, was opened on May 30, when a public reception was held in the building.

Massachusetts, Library Art Club. The Library Art Club, which recently held its third annual meeting in the lecture hall of the Boston Public Library, has grown satisfactorily in membership, and is rapidly extending its field of usefulness. 80 New England libraries compose the present membership of the association, of which three are in Rhode Island, three in Connecticut, four in Maine, including the library of Bowdoin College, four in Vermont and five in New Hampshire; 65 belonging to Massachusetts. These are nearly all town libraries, but

the normal schools of Framingham and North Adams are of the number.

The club owns by purchase only nine exhibits. These are: One descriptive of Amsterdam and North Holland, 122 photographs; two, of Florence, 157 and 159 photographs respectively; one, of Japan, 130 photographs; one, of Nuremburg, 88 photographs; one, of Oxford, 88 photographs; one, of Raphael's works, 103 photographs; one, of Rome, 81 photographs; one, of Venice, 209 photographs. But, besides these, the club possesses by gift or special loan 20 other artistic and highly interesting collections. Among the especially noteworthy exhibits placed before the public through the agency of the club have been: The Sella Alpine and Caucasian views, divided into three sections; photographic views of New England scenery by Henry G. Peabody, taken for the Boston & Maine and Rutland railways, divided into two parts; views of Colorado mountain scenery, of Canadian and British Columbian scenery, of Newfoundland scenery, of Rio Grande and Louisiana scenery, etc.; lithographs and original drawings from the *Youth's Companion*, *Truth*, and *Scribner's Magazine*; the Prang Educational Company's reproductions of famous art works. — *Boston Transcript*.

Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt. The centennial of Middlebury College, celebrated on July 3, was marked by the dedication of the new Starr Library, erected from the bequest of the late Egbert Carr.

New Haven (Ct.) P. L. (Rpt., 1899.) Added 5874; total 47,399. Issued, 301,425 (fict. 50.9%; juv. fict. 19.8%). New cards issued 8194; total cards in force 16,324. Receipts \$14,070.10; expenses \$13,881.02.

About 500 v. were placed in the Strong Public School for use by pupils. The principal of the school bears witness to the "wholesome force" of this collection, and suggests the increase of duplicate copies of popular books, and the establishment of a school collection of books for older children, from 13 to 18 years.

N. Y. F. C. L. for the Blind. Announcement was made on June 19 that the officers of the New York Public Library have offered to provide a permanent home for the library for the blind in the new building of the Public Library, provided that the library be conducted under the general direction and as part of the work of the New York Public Library. The trustees of the library for the blind have accepted the offer, which will, however, probably not take effect for four years.

Newton (Ct.) L. Assoc. Ground has been broken for the Beach Memorial Library building, to be presented to the library association by Miss Rebecca Donaldson Beach, of New Haven. The building is centrally located, the site being furnished by the library association; it has been designed by Grosvenor Atterbury, of New York, and will it is hoped be ready for occupancy by October. It is a memorial to the Rev. John Beach, first missionary from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Northampton, Mass. To him that hath shall be given. The circulation of the two public libraries of Northampton, Mass., is larger in proportion to the population than that of any city in the United States, and, presumably, than any in the world. And yet in Florence, one of its villages, a little girl of 11 has established an additional free circulating library, with a catalog, a charging system, and fines for detention after two weeks. She is fond of reading, and has many readable books, and wishing others to enjoy what gives her so much pleasure, she lends her books (labelled and charged) to the children of the neighborhood. We have not received any reports of the total circulation nor of the proportion of fiction. C. A. C.

Norwich (Ct.) Free Academy. Peck L. This library, founded in 1859 by Mrs. Harriet Peck Williams as a memorial to her father, Capt. Bela Peck, now contains about 12,000 volumes. It has an author and title card catalog, and 65 current periodicals and papers are on file. Books are issued for home use to teachers and pupils of the academy, and to teachers of the public schools, and it is free for general reference use from 2 to 5 p.m. every afternoon.

Oakland (Cal.) P. L. Plans submitted by Bliss & Faville, of San Francisco, have been selected for the new library building.

The building will consist of a rectangular main building 56 feet wide and 112 feet long, with a projection on the south side or rear 21 feet wide and 77 feet long. There will be a basement story, with the floor above ground, containing two large rooms — the children's room and the newspaper and periodical reading-room — with a wide hall and staircase between. The central stairs lead to a spacious platform, from which side flights lead to the second or main floor. The entire main portion of the building is in effect one lofty apartment, divided longitudinally into a central nave and side aisles by means of columns placed about 12 feet from the walls. This apartment is divided crosswise by two screen partitions as high as the book-cases into two large rooms, with a central hall between. The delivery-room is at the east end and the reference-room at the west, while the trustees' room occupies the central part of the front. The stack-room occupies the central portion of the rear projection, with direct communication with the delivery-room and reference-room. The librarian's room and cataloging rooms are at each end of the stack-room. Toilet-rooms for attendants only are provided on this floor, while provision is made for heating, etc., in a sub-basement.

Orange (N. J.) F. L. The cornerstone of the \$100,000 library building, given to Orange by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stickler as a memorial of their son, was laid on June 25.

Patterson (N. J.) P. L. (15th rpt. — year ending Jan. 31, 1900.) Added 3049; total 32,837. Issued, home use 125,097 (fict. 74.4%), of which 7929 were issued through the schools. New

cards issued 2980; cards in use 8648. Receipts \$20,269.01; expenses \$17,140.63.

The total issue for home use shows an increase of 2487, although there is a decrease of 4331 volumes in the number loaned directly from the library. The growth has thus been entirely due to the work with the schools, which has consisted in sending small collections to several grammar schools and to the high school. More recently a proposition was made that the Public Library take the present high school library of about 1200 volumes, add to it, catalog it, and establish it as a branch. Mr. Winchester says: "I think it should be possible to establish a small branch library or delivery station at every public school in the city, and to bring all under one system, controlled by rules established by the trustees." Branches and delivery stations are also regarded as important to the development of the library.

Peoria (Ill.) P. L. A few weeks ago a number of volumes were missed from the open reference shelves of the library, and Librarian Willcox made effort through the police force to discover the thief. The detectives became suspicious of a young man who was a frequent user of the open shelves, and finally two packages of nine library books were traced to his possession. Five more volumes belonging to the library were later found at his home and in saloons. The man was placed under arrest, and his case was brought up on June 23. He was apparently well educated and of student tastes, had been a teacher for some years, and said that being now employed as a common laborer he had been unable to buy books, and had taken the library books intending to return them. The books taken were all scientific, historical, or other serious works. The offender was sentenced to six months in the workhouse and a fine of \$50 and costs, but as Mr. Willcox and the judge were both inclined to leniency, the sentence was suspended during good behavior and the prisoner was released.

Pittsburgh, Pa. Carnegie L. The Mt. Washington branch of the Carnegie Library was formally opened on the evening of May 31. The building stands on a bluff 500 feet above the Monongahela river, on the south side of the city, on Grand View avenue. It is modelled on the plan of the West End branch library, except that it has glass partitions which separate the adult reading room and the children's room from the loan lobby. The general fittings of the library are an improvement upon those of the other branch libraries. The charging desk is octagonal instead of circular. The details of drawers, lockers, etc., have been carefully worked out to facilitate the routine work and economize space. There are no stacks, but behind the loan desk are shelves for reference books, and the remainder of the books are on shelves around the walls of the reading rooms.

The adult room is provided with two bulletin boards, covered with corticine, brown in tone

to match the woodwork. These are built into the wall over the radiators. The magazine rack is also built into the wall. This room has a shelving capacity of 7000 volumes, and a seating capacity of 64 at eight tables, of ordinary height and 4 feet 8 inches long by 3 feet 3 inches wide. There is also an attendant's desk. In the children's room the shelving is 57 inches high. Over the shelving rises to the height of 27 inches a brown corticine frieze. This makes a good background for small framed pictures, hung within easy reach of the children's eyes, or it may be used for a picture catalog of the books on the shelves underneath. The shelving capacity of this room is about 5000 volumes. The furniture differs slightly from that in the other branches; the tables, eight in number, accommodate 10 chairs each, and there is an attendant's desk specially designed for the purpose. — *Carnegie L. Bulletin, June.*

Portland (Me.) P. L. (Rpt. — year ending March 31, 1900.) Added 2700; total 47,479. Issued, home use 99,145 (fict. and juv. 75%); lib. use 16,096; visitors to ref. room 18,931; visitors to reading-room 34,127; cards in use (since re-registration) 5351. Receipts \$15,143.72; expenses \$14,285.29.

"The total attendance in the young people's reading-room was 28,356. That the children find the library an interesting and attractive place cannot be doubted." The establishment of a circulating department for the children's room is recommended.

"The work of revising and duplicating the original card catalog has been rushed as rapidly as possible, and more than 15,000 cards have been added to the two catalogs, both of which contain the accessions to date."

Providence (R. I.) P. L. (22d rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '99.) Added 2840; total 88,723. Issued, home use 105,230 (fict. 59.41% of which 19.08% is juvenile); lib. use 30,100. New cards issued, 4269; total cards in use, 14,403.

The report closes just prior to removal to the new building, so that it deals especially with aspects of usefulness that may be developed under the new conditions. Increased book funds are regarded as of special importance in bringing the collection to a proper standard of size and completeness. The service, too, is inadequate, and an increased force is greatly needed. Branches also are regarded as an important means of widening the influence and usefulness of the library. A comparative list appended shows how inadequate is the yearly city appropriation of \$10,000 for library purposes, when ranked with the sums set aside by other cities for library work. Certainly, with the fine possibilities that the new building affords, Providence should more generously support the important work that its library has done and has still to do.

St. Joseph (Mo.) P. L. The plans for the new library building, submitted in competition by E. J. Eckel, of St. Joseph, have been selected by the special committee on plans and specifications. It is hoped that work on the building may be begun within a month or so.

St. Paul (Minn.) P. L. A book reception was held on June 16 to celebrate the transfer of the library from the city hall to the new library building. The new quarters were open for inspection, and Mrs. McCaine, the librarian, with her assistants, received visitors and explained the arrangement of the new rooms.

The new library building is the old market hall, remodelled, decorated and well equipped for its present purpose. There is a main reading room, 40 x 40, connected by arches with a main delivery room, 37 x 72. The stack room is equipped with steel shelving and has a book capacity of from 58,000 to 230,000. There are also a children's room, 63 x 40, trustees' and librarian's rooms, cataloging and work rooms, and ample facilities for storage, special collections, etc.

Salt Lake City (Utah) P. L. The librarian's report for the year ending May 31, gives the following facts: Added 1661; total 13,374, of which 3746 v. are in the reference department. Home use 61,232; ref. use 31,596. New cards issued 1825; total registration 7599. Receipts \$11,272.33; expenses \$6195.39.

San Francisco. Sutro L. The Sutro Library has again become a subject of public interest owing to the expressed intention of Mrs. Emma Sutro Merritt to dispose of the collection to some public organization. Mrs. Merritt, by Adolph Sutro's will, dated in 1882, was bequeathed "all the books, papers, scrap-books, manuscripts, and pictures" contained in her father's library, and she has recently been in conference with the authorities of the State University Library and the trustees of the Public Library regarding its disposition. It is thought that the university may be unable to accept the collection, owing to inability to raise the sum — estimated at about \$10,000 — necessary for its removal and establishment, and that the collection may therefore find its way to the Free Public Library.

Seattle (Wash.) P. L. (9th rpt., 1899.) Added 1952; Total 17,579. Issued, home use 137,941, a gain of 26% over 1898. Cards in force 7198. The circulation shows a marked increase in the use of children's books and a decrease in fiction, "the latter difference being manifestly caused by the circulation of popular magazines, which in its first year occupies nearly the ground that fiction has lost." Receipts \$15,487.46; expenses \$15,115.03.

Mr. Smith gives a very full review of the library's work during a year "far the most interesting and prosperous the library has yet had." This is largely owing to the opening of the library on Jan. 12, in new and attractive quarters in the Yesler mansion. The working force has been somewhat increased, and the reference department especially has profited by the change. A children's room has been established, and for this a special attendant is much needed. The tone of the report is one of encouragement and enthusiasm, promising well for the future of the library. The two previous reports, for 1897 and 1898, are also published in pamphlet form simultaneously with the 1899 report.

Sedalia Mo. Carnegie L. Revised plans for the library building, prepared by J. L. Mauran, representing Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, were adopted on June 14, by the library board. The building will cost about \$43,000; it will be built of Carthage stone and terra cotta, and it is expected to have it ready for occupancy by Feb. 1, 1901.

Stamford, Ct. Ferguson L. Miss Van Hoevenberg, the librarian, prepared some time ago short lists of collateral reading, in history, literature, and biography, suggested by some of the most popular novels of the day — "Janice Meredith," "Richard Carvel," "Via crucis," "When knighthood was in flower." None of the lists include more than 20 titles, but they cover a wide range of information. The lists were printed in the *New York Times Saturday Review*, and some copies have also been printed in separate form for the use of readers.

Stevens Point (Wis.) P. L. The third report of the librarian, for the year ending June 15, gives the following facts: Added 586; total 3625. Issued 38,873 (fict. 11,437; juv. 11,783). New borrowers, 480; total borrowers 2473. Receipts \$1579.84; expenses \$1178.05.

Texas. Women's clubs and libraries. The report of the library committee of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Texas for 1899-1900 shows that eight circulating libraries were begun and put in active operation during that time, seven club libraries were begun, and four library associations were perfected. There were 21 library organizations previously reported, giving a present total of 40, with 25,544 volumes.

"There is only one library in the state which does not owe its success to the efforts of club women, and it is located in Galveston.

"When our state federation was organized in 1897 only seven library associations were in existence in Texas. These were located at Houston, Galveston, San Antonio, Fort Worth, El Paso, Denison, and Navasota. To-day from the 53 club centers of the state we receive news of the existence of 41 library associations. Of these, three only are free libraries.

"In many instances the charters of cities do not authorize appropriations directly for the support of libraries. In such cases club women should use their influence to have these charters amended. In only three towns in the state are libraries assisted by city funds, viz: in Galveston, Houston, and Dallas, the last mentioned place having recently had its charter amended for this purpose.

"Your committee has been urged to petition the legislature for appropriations for libraries, but our advisory board has satisfied us of the hopelessness of securing aid from this source under existing constitutional limitations. It will require more influence than we at present possess to enable us to secure a change in our constitution for this purpose. It is practicable, however, to relieve library associations from the annual tax of \$10 imposed upon corporations in general. We recommend that a petition for this purpose be signed by all officers and delegates of federated clubs here assem-

bled, and that it be presented to the next legislature."

Trenton (N. J.) F. P. L. The purchase for \$17,075 of a site for the new library building was authorized by the common council on June 19. The site chosen is on East State street, and has a frontage of 85 feet and a depth of 207 feet.

Wesleyan Univ. L. Middletown, Ct. "There have been presented to the library from May 10, 1899, to April 30, 1900, 2227 bound volumes, 2973 pamphlets and numbers of periodicals, and 402 maps." The Alumni Library Endowment fund has been increased by \$814 received in subscriptions. It now amounts to \$1686.37.

FOREIGN.

ARIEL, S. The national Jewish library in Jerusalem. (In *Jewish Comment*, June 1, 1900.) 2 col.

The library was begun in 1892 in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. It now contains over 15,000 titles in Hebrew and Judaica.

Battersea (Eng.) P. L. (13th rpt.—year ending March 25, 1900.) Added 3595 volumes, of which 3382 were purchased; total 46,314. Total borrowers 12,264. Issued, home and reference use, 329,863, a gain of 42,224 over the previous year. The open-shelf system has been introduced in the reference room where about 400 standard books of reference are placed by themselves for the use of all readers. The children's department is in the main library and its branches have been much used. It is now arranged to have parties of children visit the different libraries during school hours, hoping thereby to arouse and stimulate their interest. Collections of 100 books are sent each fortnight to two city institutions. A fourth edition of the Indicator-Key to Class F (Fiction) in the central lending department is now in press.

Bodleian L., Oxford. (Rpt., 1899.) During the year the library received 64,752 "printed and manuscript items." This total is the second highest on record, the purchases of new books exceeding those of any former year.

The more important accessions are noted. Chief among these was a folio sheet containing four copies of a proclamation conveying alleged pronouncements by Popes Innocent and Alexander in favor of Henry VII.'s succession, presented by Magdalen College. Four such sheets were found by the Rev. W. D. Macray in the binding of one of the books of Magdalen College, and of the remaining three one is kept by the College, while the others have been presented to the British Museum and Cambridge University Library. The type was identified as Wynkyn de Worde's, a contemporary allusion placing the issue of the proclamation about 1496.

Additions to the manuscripts were large and noteworthy, the number of Armenian manuscripts having been almost doubled; "among them are a commentary on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom, and the Song of Songs of about

1272, a hymnal of 1297, and a menologion of the 13th or early 14th century. The most important Latin ms. was a fine one of the Polycraticus and Metalogicon of John of Salisbury, written in the late 12th century, and presented to Battle Abbey by Richard, abbot from 1218 to 1235. There is a Chinese ms. containing 28 large pictures of Buddhist monastic life, ritual, and scenery, with Chinese titles. The execution is beautiful throughout, and as regards the landscapes quite unapproached by any other Chinese mss. in the library. A Burmese ms. is also remarkable, being a folding picture about 12 ft. long by 2 ft. broad of court games, highly colored, and full of detail. Finally, a Mexican ms., though a Christian religious work, probably written by a Spaniard in the 17th century, consists of 38 pages in Nahuatl, each adorned with rude colored borders of flowers, cherubs, and symbols of various kinds."

Special mention is made of the retirement of Dr. Neubauer from the post of sub-librarian, and the appointment of Mr. Arthur Ernest Cowley as his successor.

British Museum L. (Return—year ending March 31, 1900.) There were 663,724 visitors during the year. 188,554 students visited the reading-room, as against 190,886 in 1898; the daily average was 624; 1,306,078 v. were supplied to students. In the newspaper-room there were 19,090 readers, and 394 visitors were admitted to the map-room for special geographical research. The additions for the year include 27,670 v. and pm., of which 9095 were purchased; 64,971 parts of volumes or periodicals, of which 24,648 were purchased; 1189 maps in 8039 sheets; 4808 pieces of music; and 3483 newspapers, comprising 223,941 single numbers. In all—including broadsides, Parliamentary papers, etc.—105,205 articles were received in the department during the year.

"The printing of the entire catalog, which was begun in 1881, is now almost completed; there now remains unprinted only a portion of the heading 'England.' Progress has been made during the year in the preparation of a supplement to the General Catalogue which will contain the titles of all books which were added to the library during the years 1882-1889, inclusive, but were not incorporated in the catalog during the progress of printing. 30 manuscript volumes have been prepared and sent to press during the year, and 10 printed parts, representing 51 manuscript volumes, have been delivered by the printer." The more important accessions are briefly described.

According to a recent note in the periodical *Science*, the authorities of the British Museum have decided to adopt a system of hydraulic pressure upon all the fire mains of the institution as an additional precaution against fire. By the adoption of this system a pressure of water of enormous force will be obtained by the mere turning of a couple of wheels, and the necessity for the fire-engines, which are at present on the roof of the museum, will be obviated.

— THE BRITISH MUSEUM. (*In Spectator*, June 23, p. 867.)

Discusses the Parliament bill authorizing the destruction of so-called "valueless printed matter" in the Museum. The bill has already passed the House of Lords and it appears that extension was practically denied the Museum by the Treasury until an attempt had been made to get the House of Commons to say whether destruction was not preferable.

Croydon (Eng.) P. L. (11th rpt. — year ending March 31, 1900.) Added 2568; total 42,564. Total issue 319,394. No. borrowers 11,496.

The total circulation shows an increase of 5876. This "is due to the great rise in the issues from the central reference library; the issues from the central lending library and branches show a decrease of 1410 as compared with last year." There has been a drop of nearly 3 per cent. in the fiction issues, which stand at 63.7 instead of 66.5. The central reference use was 13,308, as compared with 6022 in 1898-99. The differences in circulation are due to the rearrangement of the library on the open-access system.

The report is illustrated with many photographs showing the new arrangement, and it contains a plan of the central lending library. Here the fiction shelves extend around three walls of the room, thus giving ample space, and the books in other classes are ranged in center shelves. The report is an interesting addition to open-access literature.

Gifts and Bequests.

Belfast (Me.) F. L. The city of Belfast has received from Albert Crane, of Stamford, Ct., \$3000, to be held in trust for the library, as a fund in memory of his classmate, the late Albert Boyd Otis. The income of the fund is to be devoted to the purchase of books on history and biography.

Chartiers Township F. L., Idlewood, Pa. The library has received from Andrew Carnegie \$1500 for the purchase of books.

Clark University L., Worcester, Mass. By the will of the late Jonas G. Clark, the sum of \$150,000 is left to Clark University for the erection and maintenance of a library.

Columbus (O.) P. L. Col. James Kilbourne, of Columbus, has given \$1000 to the library for the maintenance of a Kilbourne alcove, and has also presented 750 volumes to the institution.

Fairfield, Me. On May 16, E. J. Lawrence offered to give to Fairfield a public library building, to cost between \$8000 and \$10,000.

Farmington (Me.) P. L. A. Hon. Isaac Cutler, of Boston, has offered to give \$10,000 to Farmington for a public library building. The money will be presented at once and plans will be arranged for when a site has been selected. The present library contains about 6000 v. Mr. Cutler is a native of Farmington.

Huntingdon, Pa. On June 17 it was announced that Andrew Carnegie had offered to give \$20,000 for a public library building for Huntingdon, provided the city furnish a site and guarantee \$2000 a year for maintenance.

Ironwood, Mich. Andrew Carnegie has offered to give \$12,000 for a public library building, on the usual conditions that the town furnish a site and pledge itself to maintain the library. A site has already been secured.

Marietta (O.) College. On June 12, at the annual meeting of the alumni of Marietta College announcement was made that Hon. R. M. Stimson, of Marietta, a graduate of the class of '47, and for many years college librarian and treasurer, had presented to the college library his private collection of 19,012 volumes, without condition, save that they be kept together and in reasonable repair. The collection is especially rich in Americana relating to the Mississippi valley. In accepting the gift the trustees elected Mr. Stimson librarian emeritus of the college.

Muscatine (Ia.) P. L. On June 4 it was announced that P. M. Musser, of Muscatine, had offered to present the city with a new library building, provided the city vote to establish and maintain the library. The building will cost about \$30,000.

Newburyport (Mass.) P. L. By the will of the late E. S. Moseley, of Newburyport, the library receives a bequest of \$3000. The library also received, on April 30, the gift of \$20,000 for purchase of books, from John Rand Spring, of San Francisco; and on the same date a bequest of \$4500 from the late Stephen W. Marston, of Boston.

Rindge, N. H. Ingalls Memorial L. The library has received from Hon. Ezra S. Stearns the sum of \$1000, to be kept as a fund, the interest to be devoted for the benefit of the institution.

Salem (Mass.) P. L. By the will of the late Walter S. Dickson, of Salem, the library receives a bequest of \$10,000.

Springfield (Mass.) City L. By the death, on June 15, of David Dwight Wells, the library will receive a share of the estate of the late David A. Wells, amounting to about \$70,000. By the will of Mr. Wells, senior, two-thirds of his estate — estimated in all at about \$331,000 — was in the event of his son's death without issue to be divided equally between the Springfield City Library, Harvard University, and Williams College.

Trinity College, N. C. On June 6 it was announced that James K. Duke, president of the American Tobacco Co., had offered to present a fine library building to Trinity College.

Wilkinsburg, Pa. Andrew Carnegie has offered to give \$50,000 for the establishment of a public library on the usual conditions of provision of site and maintenance. The offer is in the hands of the town council; there is little doubt of its acceptance.

Practical Notes.

BOOK-BACKING. (Described in *Official Gazette* of the U. S. Patent Office, June 12, 1900, 91: 2020.) il.

A sheet-strip for backing and assembling book-signatures.

SECTIONAL BOOK-CASE. (Described in *Official Gazette* of the U. S. Patent Office, June 12, 1900, 91: 2076.)

PROPOSED CHARGING SYSTEM. — L. Lyon, of Ashtabula, O., sends the following outline of a charging system, which he submits for criticisms:

Charging.

"Lending desk not less than 6 ft. long and 42 in. high. At left end of desk have two boxes. On the ends write *Borrower's cards*. On the left box write *Borrowers having books* or *Dr.* On the right box write *Borrowers without books* or *Cr.* At right end of desk have two boxes. On the ends write *Book cards*. On the left box write *Books in* or *Dr.* On the right box write *Books out* or *Cr.*

"When 462 (John Smith) borrows F3 H73 charge it on his card (borrower's card) and put it in borrower's card *Dr.* box. Also charge him on F3 H73 (book card) and put it in book cards *Cr.* box.

"Stamp on book slip on last fly-leaf of F3-H73 his number and when due. When the book is returned stamp both borrower's card and book card the date when returned, and put 462 card in *Cr.* box, and F3 H73 card in *Dr.* box. Double entry. No stamping on book slip when book is returned. The cards in Borrower's *Dr.* card box have guides with day of month and last charges are put in front, nearest you. The cards in borrower's boxes are in numerical order. Cards in the book boxes in alphabetical order or call mark. See Library Bureau charging case 25c. similar; Plummer's "Hints to small libraries"; p. 37, 38, 40."

This, it will be seen, is practically the Newark system, save for the indication of the trays as *Dr.* and *Cr.*, and for the omission of the book pocket and the consequent filing of borrower's cards. With this scheme Mr. Lyon sends a series of rules (entitled "Commandments") which he suggests as library regulations. These are as follows:

1. Don't handle books with dirty fingers. Wash your hands.
2. Don't hold a book without a thumb paper.
3. Don't wet your thumb to turn leaves.
4. Don't turn leaves from bottom, but from top.
5. Don't turn down corners or leaves.
6. Don't fail to report if a leaf is either torn or loose.
7. Don't lay a book open on its face.
8. Don't drop a book. It racks it.
9. Don't point with a lead pencil.
10. Don't mark a book with a pencil.
11. Don't use ink near a book. Copy with pencil.
12. Don't touch a picture with your finger.
13. Don't touch a map with your finger.
14. Don't put a paper-bound book on a shelf front edge first. Put back in and turn it.
15. Don't keep a book past due. You may be fined five cents a day to price of book.
17. Don't injure or lose a book, else you may be charged retail price of either volume or set.

18. Don't fear to ask for anything you wish to know.
19. Don't fail to feel at home in the library."

Lack of comprehensiveness is certainly not among the compiler's sins of omission.

CHANGING SIZE OF CATALOG CARDS. — I have been often asked by libraries whether it will pay to alter the size of catalog cards after a considerable number have been written on something different from the standard form. In the majority of cases there is little doubt that the sooner the change is made the cheaper it will be, though there are cases where the expense involved seems prohibitive. A letter recently received speaks of a catalog of 85,000 cards 8 x 11.25 cm. About 6% of these cards have to be recopied, as they were written in ink which has faded, emphasizing anew the danger of using anything but inks of thoroughly tested permanence.

The substitution of single trays for the double drawers brings up the question whether the standard size shall now be adopted. In this particular case the answer is obvious. There is no difficulty in using shorter cards with the standard, and as these cards are only a half centimeter wider than the ordinary, probably more than 90% can be cut down to the standard height and used without recopying. By going through the cards and picking out those which have matter in the top margin which would be lost, they could be put in two piles, one of which could be cut down at the top, while the other would have to be cut from the bottom and repunched for the rod a little higher; or in very rare cases a card might have to be copied. If, however, the size of the card were such that no retrimming would adjust it to the present universal standard, I should still strongly advise adopting the $7\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cm. card. This has made its way all over the bibliographic world and is the international standard. The United States Government recently made 40,000,000 postal cards of this size in recognition of the growing importance of having cards for book titles and other purposes which would drop at once into the standard files. Trays, drawers, pockets, and various devices for convenient work have multiplied with wonderful rapidity, so that it is no longer an exaggeration to say that the well-constructed library building would be constructed around the standard postal card as a unit. It is a serious matter to change, but it is a much more serious matter to go on with an odd size.

If the cost of copying is prohibitive at first, the new size may be adopted at the expense of consulting two catalogs until after the old one is printed or merged in the new. This was the plan we adopted in the New York State Library when we found an old form of card catalog in use which we could not afford to copy at once. We have never regretted the abandonment of that form, and I have never known a library that brought itself into line with modern progress so that it utilized the co-operative work of the rest of the library world to regret even a serious expense in making the change.

MELVIL DEWEY.

Librarians.

BISCOE, Miss Ellen D., librarian of the Eau Claire (Wis.) Public Library, has resigned that position, and will enter the Wisconsin State University in the autumn for a special course of study.

CHAMBERLAIN, Mellen, formerly librarian of the Boston Public Library, and distinguished as a jurist and a historian, died at his home in Chelsea, Mass., on June 25. Judge Chamberlain was born in Pembroke, N. H., June 4, 1821, and was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1844. He entered the Dane Law School, at Cambridge, in 1847, and was graduated from there two years later with the degree of LL.D. He began to practice law in Boston in 1849, held several municipal offices and was a member of both houses of the state legislature. In July, 1866, he was appointed a judge in the Municipal Court, and later was made Chief Justice. In October, 1878, Judge Chamberlain resigned his position on the bench to become librarian of the Boston Public Library, a post that he filled until October, 1890, when he resigned to devote his time and attention to literary work. Under Judge Chamberlain's administration the library's collection of Americana was largely augmented, and the preliminary plans for its building were developed. In the field of American history he won a wide reputation, and was recognized as one of the foremost students of Colonial history in America. His contributions to the literature of this subject were many and varied, and a selection from his addresses, reviews and essays was published in 1898, by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., under the title of "John Adams, the statesman of the American Revolution." Judge Chamberlain was a life member of the American Library Association, which he joined in 1879, and he attended the Lake George, Thousand Islands, Fabyans, and other A. L. A. conferences. He was a corresponding member of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen, and of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

DAME, Miss Katharine, Pratt Institute Library School, class of 1900, has been appointed cataloger at the library of Cornell University.

DAY, Miss Ermina M., for many years librarian of the Mt. Vernon (O.) Public Library, died at her home in that city on June 3.

DIESERUD, Juul, for three years librarian of the Field Columbian Library, Chicago, has resigned that post to accept a position in the Catalogue Division of the Library of Congress.

DOREN, Miss Electra C., has returned from a nine months' trip abroad and has resumed the direction of the Dayton (O.) Public Library. Miss Doren spent some time in Italy, and attended the Montreal meeting of the A. L. A. on her return. It was a pleasure to many to welcome her back to the field in which her work has been so effective and so helpful.

GEROULD, James T., of the staff of Columbia University Library, has been appointed librarian of Missouri University, at Columbia, Mo.

HALL, E. W. The University of New Brun-

wick, Fredericton, N. B., at its recent centennial, conferred the degree of LL.D. on Prof. Edward W. Hall, librarian of Colby College, Waterville, Me.

LEPPER, Miss Rosa M., for five years assistant librarian in the St. Louis (Mo.) Public Library, was on June 14 elected librarian of the Dallas (Tex.) Public Library. She will not enter upon her new duties until the new building of the Dallas library—for which Andrew Carnegie has given \$50,000—is well advanced toward completion.

MULLINS, John Davies, for more than 30 years chief librarian of the Birmingham (Eng.) Free Libraries, died at his home in Handsworth on May 27. Mr. Mullins retired in the summer of 1898 from his connection with the Birmingham libraries, a connection begun in March, 1858, when he was appointed to the charge of the old Birmingham Library. He was born in London in 1832, but almost his whole life was passed in Birmingham, where his work and influence were strong factors in the library development of the city. The library which he had in charge was in 1860 amalgamated with a second local library, and in the same year the adoption of the Free Libraries act gave opportunity for the organization of a general public library system, in which Mr. Mullins' industry and resource were indispensable. In May, 1865, he was made chief librarian to the corporation, and from that time until his retirement on superannuation he gave himself to the advancement of the interests of the Birmingham Free Libraries. Mr. Mullins was a constant attendant at the earlier meetings of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, and was for many years one of its vice-presidents.

ODDIE, Miss Sarah Slater, has been elected librarian of the Free Public Library of East Orange, N. J. Miss Oddie is a graduate of the Pratt Institute Library School, class of '95, and for nearly four years has been a member of the cataloging force of the New York Public Library. Her many friends will learn with pleasure of her appointment to the East Orange library, to which a fine equipment is assured by Mr. Carnegie's munificent gift of last February.

PHILLIPS, Miss Grace Louise, of the staff of the New York Public Library, was recently appointed librarian of the University Settlement Society, New York City, succeeding Miss Helen Moore.

PLUMMER, Miss Mary W., of the Pratt Institute Library, who left Montreal on June 17 by the Allan line steamer *Parisian*, to succeed J. L. Harrison in charge of the American Library Association exhibit at the Paris Exposition, arrived in Paris on June 29.

PUTNAM, Herbert, Librarian of Congress, has been abroad since June, in the interests of the Library of Congress. He will return in September.

SOLBERG, Thorvald, Register of Copyrights, sailed on July 5 for Paris, where he will represent the United States at the congress on copyright, to be held in connection with the Paris Exposition.

STIMSON, Rodney Metcalf, for many years librarian of Marietta College, and also treasurer of that institution since 1881, has been elected librarian emeritus of the library with which he has been so long connected. The election was made upon Mr. Stimson's declination to again accept a re-election as treasurer and in special recognition of his gift to the college library of his own fine private collection of nearly 20,000 volumes.

WILLCOX, Frank Grennell, has been appointed librarian of the Holyoke (Mass.) Public Library, succeeding Miss Sarah Ely, resigned. Mr. Willcox is a graduate of Colgate University, class of '94, and has taught in the Holyoke public schools. He was graduated in June from the New York State Library School, class of 1900, and enters upon his new duties in August.

Cataloging and Classification.

The CARNEGIE L. (Pittsburgh) *Bulletin* for June devotes an instalment of its reading list on contemporary biography to "Statesmen and warriors."

The CLEVELAND (O.) P. L. has resumed the publication of its bulletin, *The Open Shelf*, in a new series as an octavo quarterly, 16 pages. The first issue lists the accessions of January, February, and March, and gives brief items of library news.

NEW LONDON (Ct.) P. L. Supplement to finding-list, March, 1897-March, 1900. 44 p. O.

A linotype D. C. class-list, including list of the library's collection of "Art studies" (about 125 entries).

The NEW YORK P. L. *Bulletin* for June contains Part 2 of the list of "Works relating to the state of New York in the New York Public Library," including maps, governors' messages, directories, and census returns; and the second instalment of the "Letters and papers of Andrew Jackson," covering the years 1820 to 1825.

The SALEM (Mass.) P. L. *Bulletin* for June devotes its special reading lists to Forestry and to Paris.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF N. Y. State library bulletin, Bibliography no. 21, May, 1900: A selection from the best books of 1899, with notes. Albany, 1900. 26 p. O. pap., 5c.

This annual list includes 225 books, classed according to the D. C., with brief descriptive notes. Of the titles listed 100 are divided into three classes, marked by the use of the letters *a, b, c*. There are 20 titles in class *a*, 30 in *b*, and 50 in *c*, these titles being recommended, in alphabetical order, to libraries limited to the purchase of a very few books.

— State library bulletin. Library school, no. 7, May, 1900: Selected national bibliographies. Albany, 1900. p. 302-330. O. pap., 5c.

A useful classed list of the national bibliogra-

phies used in Mr. W. S. Biscoe's course in elementary bibliography in the New York State Library School.

JACQUES ROSENTHAL, antiquarian bookseller of Munich, has issued, in connection with the Gutenberg quin-centenary, an elaborate catalog of "*Incunabula typographica*," which ranks almost with the bibliography of the subject. It is an octavo of 232 pages, well printed, illustrated with numerous cuts and facsimiles, and giving full entries, with annotations referring to Hain, Pellechet, and other authorities.

FULL NAMES.

SPURR, J. E. In part 2 of the 16th report of the Geological Survey is an article by J. E. Spurr, entitled "Economic geology of the Mercur mining district, Utah." The cover of the separate pamphlet gives the author's name as James Edward Spurr. This is wrong, for a letter from the author himself indicates that his name is *Josiah* Edward Spurr. He is also the author of "Geology of the Yukon gold district, Alaska," from part 3 of the 18th report of the Geological Survey; and of "Geology of the Aspen mining district, Colorado," published as Monographs, vol. 31, of the Geological Survey. Librarians must not be misled by the fact that the 1899 "Official register," or "Bluebook," gives Mr. Spurr's name as Joseph, for James and Joseph are both incorrect.

MARY A. HARTWELL.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS LIBRARY,
Washington, D. C.

Ellis, Frederick Startridge (History of Reynard the fox). B. W.

"The memoir of Hayward Augustus Harvey by his sons" should be entered under Thomas William Harvey and Hayward Augustus Harvey, joint authors. B. W.

The following are supplied by the Catalogue Division, Library of Congress:

Armstrong, William Dawson (The rudiments of musical notation);

Avery-Stuttle, Lilla Dale (Making home peaceful);

Brannt, William Theodore (India rubber, gutta-percha, and balata);

Carter, Charles Frederick (Katocticut);

Colin, Thérèse Foenachon, *ed.* (Contes et saynètes. . .);

Conner, Jacob Elon (Uncle Sam abroad. . .);

Dean, Albert Flandreau (The rationale of fire rates. . .);

Doub, William Coligny (Educational questions);

Douglass, Melford Eugene (Skin diseases. . .);

Dwight, Charles Abbott Schneider (The carpenter);

Eaton, James Shirley (Railroad operations. . .);

Eshner, Augustus Adolph, *tr. of* Levy, Ernst, and Klemperer, Felix (Elements of clinical bacteriology. . .);

Francis, John Reynolds (The encyclopedia of death and life in the spirit world);

Friedman, Isaac Kahn (Poor people; a novel);

Gigot, Francis Ernest Charles (General introduction to the study of the holy Scriptures);

Goodrich, Arthur Lewis (Topics on Greek and Roman history);
 Hynson, George Beswick, *ed.* (Historical etchings of Milford and vicinity);
 Jones, Victorine Clarisse Jocquet (Miss Hogg, the American heiress);
 Kirk, Salathiel Cleaver (Musings on the way [poems].);
 Lentz, Francis George (The question box. . .);
 Mabee, Charles Ralph (The physician's business and financial adviser);
 McClure, Alfred James Pollock ("Steamin' to bells" around the Middle sea. . .);
 McGee, Gentry Richard (A history of Tennessee);
 Mann, Charles Holbrook (Phychiasis);
 Markey, Joseph Ignacious (From Iowa to the Philippines);
 Miller, Schuyler William (A gallery of farmer girls);
 Mosher, Roswel Curtis (The Baptist in history);
 Newcomb, Charles Benjamin (Discovery of a lost trail);
 Newton, Watson James (Cupid and creeds);
 Pangborn, Joseph Gladding (The cross or the pound. Which?);
 Parker, Johns Dempster (The Sabbath transferred);
 Prescott, Latimer Howard (History of Criterion lodge, no. 68, Knights of Pythias, of Cleveland, Ohio);
 Rawlins, Emma Maria, *comp.* (Shakespearean quotations);
 Reinhardt, Charles William (The technic of mechanical drafting);
 Robbins, Wilford Lash (An essay toward faith);
 Roberts, Edmund Willson (The gas-engine handbook. . .);
 Rotzell, Willett Enos (Man: an introduction to anthropology);
 Rouse, William Thomas (Glittering gems for willing workers);
 St. John, Thomas Matthew (The study of elementary electricity and magnetism by experiment. . .);
 Simonds, Ernest Henry (A practical course in the fire assaying for gold. . .);
 Smith, Madison Monroe (The mode of Christian baptism);
 Smith, Orlando Jay (The coming democracy);
 Soule, Ella Frances (Sunday afternoons for the children);
 Thompson, Samuel Chalmers (Mental index of the Bible. . .);
 Twing, Carolinn Edna Skinner ("Lisbeth: a story of two worlds");
 Underhill, Harry Clay (A treatise on the law of wills);
 Urmy, William Smith (Christ came again. . .);
 Whitaker, Nicholas Tillinghast (The pastor's helper);
 Wiener, Solomon (Finis Judaeae);
 Willard, Ammiel Jenkins (Questions and answers on the subject of personal property);
 Williams, Augustus Warner (Life and work of Dwight L. Moody. . .);
 Woods, Clinton Edgar (The electric automobile).

The following are supplied by the Library of Harvard University:

Bulova, John Adolph (Die einheitslehre [monismus] als religion);
 Clark, Jeremiah Simpson (Rand and the Micmacs);
 Crane, William Iler, *ed.* (Milton, 75. Paradise lost. Books I. and II.);
 Godrycz, John (Essays on the foundation of education);
 Hofman, Heinrich Oscar (The metallurgy of lead);
 Keeler, Harriet Louise and Davis, Emma Celeste (Studies in English composition);
 Magoon, Charles Edward (Report on the legal status of the territory and inhabitants of the islands acquired by the U. S. during the war with Spain);
 Randolph, Carman Fitz (Notes on the law of territorial expansion, with especial reference to the Philippines);
 Rothwell, Richard Pennefather (The mineral industry);
 Spalding, Elizabeth Hill (The problem of elementary composition);
 Young, Jacob William Albert, and Linebarger, Charles Estes (The elements of the differential and integral calculus).

Bibliography.

BRUNO, Giordano. Graziano, Giuseppe. Bibliografia bruniana: saggio. Asti, Italy, tip. Brignolo, 1900. 8°. 58 p.

Prepared for the third centenary of the death of Giordano Bruno; the compiler is a member of the staff of the Biblioteca Nazionale of Turin.

CATALOGUS codicum hagiographicorum graecorum bibliothecae vaticanae: ediderunt Hagiographi Bollandiani et Pius Franchi de' Cavalieri eiusdem bibliothecae scriptor ad honores. Brüssel, 1899, Via dicta "des Ursulines." 8+323 p. 8°.

This catalog of the Vatican mss. of the hagiographica, issued by the well-known Bollandists with the co-operation of one of the *Scriptores* of the library, will be especially welcome at a time when so much investigation is being carried on in these fields. The catalog is exceedingly complete, and endeavors to give references to all printed treatment of the mss., as well as the usual full paleographical information found in the Vatican catalogs so far published. Every new index of this sort simply emphasizes the need for the publication of a catalog of the entire Vatican collections, a work of many years, it is true; but not one whose period of usefulness, like that of many other catalogs, would pass in the making.

W. W. B.

CRIMINOLOGY. Drähms, August. The criminal: his personnel and environment; a scientific study, with an introduction by Cesare Lombroso. N. Y., Macmillan Co., 1900. 14+402 p. 16°. \$2.

There is a four-page alphabetical list of works upon criminology in the English language. Many newspaper articles are included.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Hays, I. M. A contribution to the bibliography of the Declaration of Independence. (*In Proceedings of American Philosophical Society*, Jan.-March, 1900. 39:69-78.)

EDUCATION. Hazlitt, W. Carew. Further contributions toward a history of earlier education in Great Britain. *Continued.* (*In Antiquary*, May, 1900. 36:138-42.)

This instalment deals with foreign authors used at English schools, and books on the modern languages of Europe.

GENERAL ITALIAN CATALOG. The Associazione Tipografico-Libraria Italiana has issued sample pages and announcements of the great "Catalogo generale della libreria italiana (1847-1899)," prepared under its direction by Prof. Attilio Pagliani, of the library of the University of Genoa. The catalog will be issued in monthly parts, of about 80 double-column quarto pages each, and will, it is thought, be completed in about 30 parts, making a volume of about 2500 pages. The price is 2.50 lire, or 75c. per part. Lemcke & Buechner, of New York, will fill American orders for the work, or subscriptions and request for sample pages may be sent to the Associazione Tipografico-Libraria, Milan.

JESUIT RELATIONS. Paltsits, Victor Hugo. Contributions to the bibliography of the "Lettres édifiantes." Cleveland, O., 1900. 41 p. O. pap. [15 copies reprinted, from v. 66 of "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents," by permission of The Burrows Brothers Co., for private distribution.]

Mr. Paltsits describes exhaustively the 34 volumes of the first edition, Paris, 1702-1776; the 26 volumes of the Paris edition, 1780-1783, edited by Yves Mathurin Marie de Querbeuf; the Toulouse edition, 1810-1811, also in 26 volumes; the Lyons edition of 1819, in 14 volumes; the Aimé-Martin edition, 1838-1843; the German translation of Joseph Stöcklein and his successors, 1726-1761; the Spanish translation of Father Diego Davin, 1753-1757; the condensed editions and extracts, English versions, a Polish version, and the continuations, one of which is still being issued serially. Reference is made to a number of editions that were known to Mr. Paltsits, but which he had no opportunity to examine. The work is carefully done and gives evidence of considerable research.

MISSOURI BIBLIOGRAPHY. F. A. Sampson, of Sedalia, Mo., has in preparation a bibliography of Missouri authors, and has issued a partial preliminary list of "Books and booklets of

poetry by Missouri authors," through which he hopes to secure further material. The list includes 109 names, information regarding place and date of publication is desired when not indicated, and any further items will be gladly received. Mr. Sampson is known as the compiler of an important "Bibliography of the geology of Missouri," published in 1890 by the State Geological Survey, and has done other useful work in the field of state bibliography.

MONASTICISM. Wishart, Alfred Wesley. A short history of monks and monasteries. Trenton, N. J., Albert Brandt, 1900. 454 p. 8°. net, \$2.50.

A four-page selected bibliography is given.

MUSIC. Deakin, Andrew. Outlines of musical bibliography. In six parts. Pt. 1. Birmingham, Eng., Published by the author, 1900. 8°.

This work is the outcome of an attempt to bring together a list of all music and musical works printed or otherwise produced in the British Isles before 1800. Pt. 1 begins with early manuscript music and musical works.

VENEREAL DISEASES. Proksch, J. K. Die literatur über die venerischen krankheiten von den ersten schriften über syphilis aus dem ende des 15. jahrhunderts bis zum beginn des jahres 1899, systematisch zusammengestellt. Supplement-band I, enthaltend die litteratur von 1889-1899 und nachträge aus früherer zeit. Bonn, P. Hanstein's Verlagsh. 6 + 835 p. 8°. 28 m.

WOMEN. Manuel de bibliographie biographique et d'iconographie des femmes célèbres; par un vieux bibliophile. Supplément. Paris, Nilsson, 1900. 11 + 636 p. 8°. 25 fr

Anonymous and Pseudonyms.

Rev. James Louis O'Neil, author of "Was Savonarola really excommunicated?" B. W.

Elizabeth Godfrey, pseud. of (Miss) Jessie Bedford. B. W.

The following are supplied by the Catalogue Division, Library of Congress:

"The domestic blunders of women, by a mere man," is by Augustus Moore.

"A woman's Paris" is by Mary Abbot.

"Usury vs. cash and Christ; or, private credit slavery," is by George Preston Brown.

W. De Huger, pseud. of Daniel Elliott Huger Wilkinson, "Harold Godwin: a social satire."

Comte C. de Saint-Germain, pseud. of Edgar de Valcourt-Vermont, "The practice of palmistry for professional purposes."



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John Cabot, the Discoverer of North America, and Sebastian his Son. A Chapter of the Maritime History of England under the Tudors, 1496-1537. By HENRY HARRISSE. Demy 8vo, buckram, pp. xi. and 504, with maps and illustrations, \$7.50 (or of Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York).

The Discovery of North America by John Cabot. The Alleged Date and Landfall. Also The Ship's Name, the "Matthew," a Forgery of Chatterton? By HENRY HARRISSE. Post 8vo, paper wrapper, pp. 47, 25 cents.

General Sir William Howe's Orderly Book at Charlestown, Boston, and Halifax, June 17, 1775 to May 26, 1776, to which is added the Official Abridgment of General Howe's Correspondence with the English Government during the Siege of Boston, and some Military Returns. Now first printed from the Original Manuscripts, with an Historical Introduction by Edward Everett Hale, the whole collected and edited by BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STEVENS. In one volume, royal 8vo, pp. xxi. and 357, cloth, gilt top, at \$3 net.

Christopher Columbus. His Own Book of Privileges, 1502. Photographic Facsimile of the Manuscript in the Archives of the Foreign Office in Paris, now for the first time published, with expanded text, translation into English, and an Historical Introduction. Limited edition on thick handmade paper, foolscap folio, half pigskin, pp. lxxvi. and 284, \$30 (or of Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York).

The Voyage from Lisbon to India, 1505-6. Being an Account and Journal by ALBERICUS VESPUCCIUS. Translated from the contemporary Flemish, and Edited with Prologue and Notes, by C. H. COOTE, Department of Printed Books (Geographical Section), British Museum. Foolscap 4to, pp. xxvii. and 56, \$3.75 net. 250 copies only printed.

Americus Vespucci. A Critical and Documentary Review of Two Recent English Books Concerning that Navigator. By HENRY HARRISSE. Foolscap 4to, pp. 68, \$3 net. 250 copies only printed.

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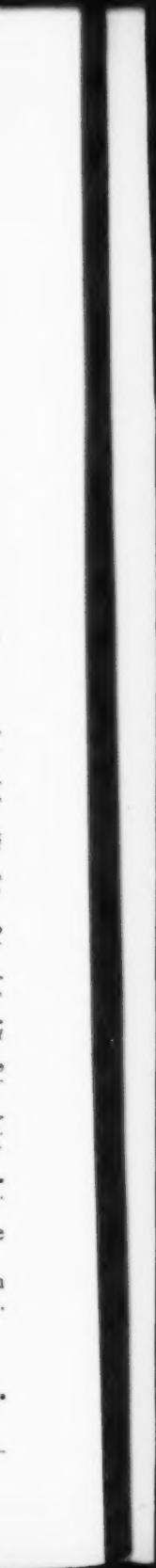
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